

2011

# Visionary Fall 2011

College of Optometry

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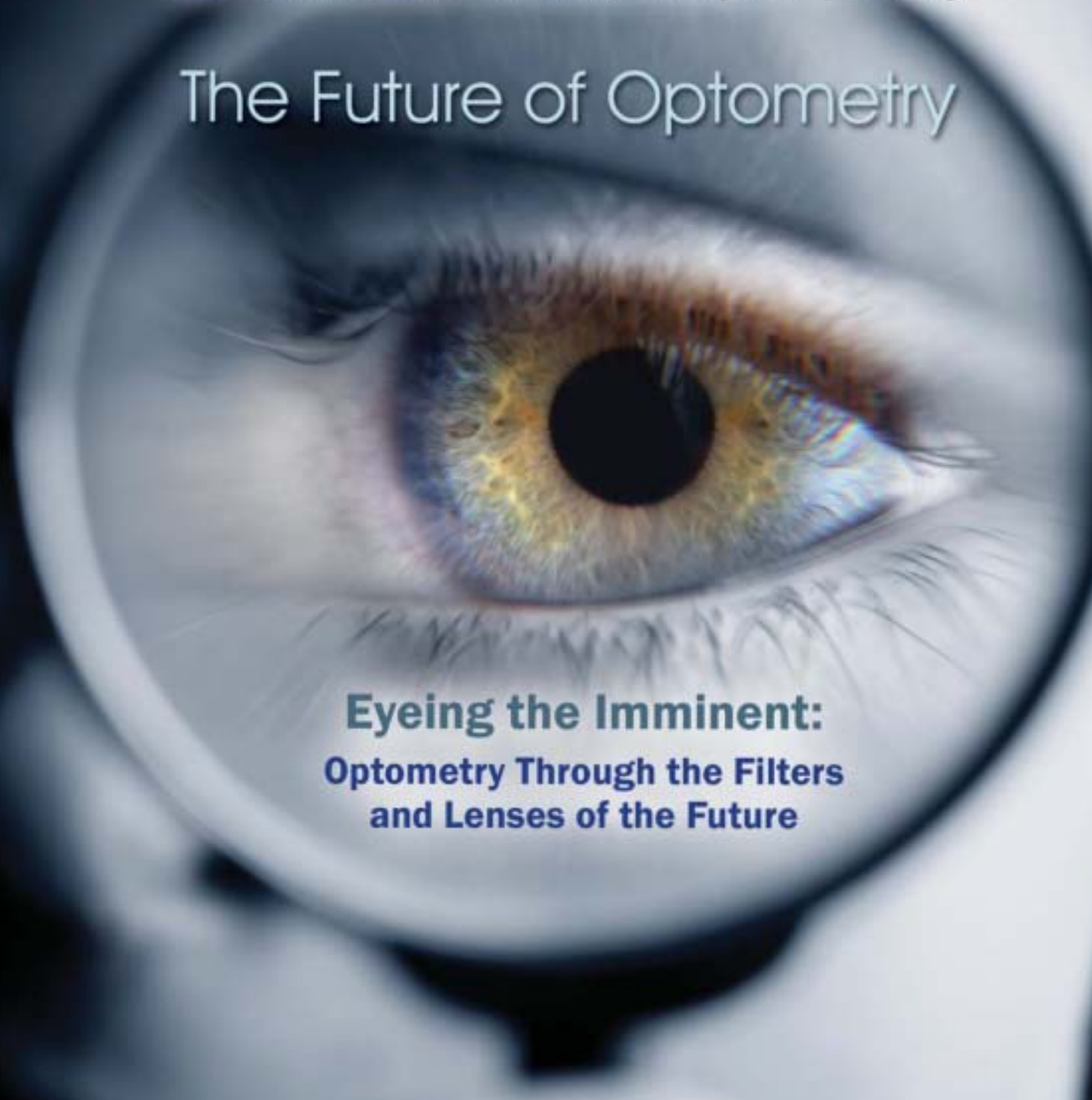
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VOLUME 6, NUMBER 2

# *the* VISIONARY

Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry

The Future of Optometry



**Eyeing the Imminent:  
Optometry Through the Filters  
and Lenses of the Future**

*Also inside: Graduation 2011 and Profiles on OD4 Jenalyn Jotie and Dr. Andrea Janoff*

# DEAN'S MESSAGE

By David S. Loshin, O.D., Ph.D., FAAO



Another year has passed and Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry has now graduated its 18<sup>th</sup> class. Considering our humble beginnings and all the growing pains we've undergone, I am pleased we are still going strong. NSUCO has come a long way. I can enumerate so many changes, which include

- new facilities
- expanded faculty and staff
- the initiation of a formal alumni chapter
- the inauguration of this very magazine
- clinic expansion, which now includes five sites under The Eye Care Institute umbrella
- improved research facilities and activities
- exchange programs with Chinese and South American optometry programs
- changes in administration

Those of you who have been reading *The Visionary* since it was first published in 2006 have been kept informed about our progress throughout the years. We hope you take as much pleasure in watching us grow as we have had in making it happen.

While the college is preparing young minds to enter the profession of optometry, the profession of optometry is making its own preparations for the future. The American Optometric Association (AOA) and the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) have recognized the many challenges a changing world will bring and are trying to work out how best to approach and overcome any problems. In order to accomplish this, the two organizations have formed a joint task force to examine these issues. The fruit of this task force is the AOA Workforce Study. It is hoped the study will produce data that will enlighten organized optometry, practitioners, and educators, as well as provide a guiding hand. Many of the issues are related to changing demographics, while some are linked to health care reform and how it will eventually impact the public and the practitioner.

One particular concern that I, as dean, have is related to filling our classes with the most qualified students and ensuring that the applicant pool will not be watered down in some way. Three new schools opened within the last five years and two more are in the planning stages. How will the additional schools, and therefore additional seats, affect the existing schools? How will each school contend with the competition for qualified candidates created by these additional seats? Is it possible some

schools may change their recruitment techniques so formerly held standards may be diminished in some ways? For example, it is my understanding that some schools intend to abandon the personal interview. There is no guarantee in any class that all admitted students will graduate, even with standards and personal interviews. However, in my opinion, it is a serious mistake to stop requiring these interviews because they are fundamental to the selection process.

I'm sure many of you have read resumes that looked really good on paper—and you would expect that the applicant will do well, based on what's written. But when you get that same person in a room and have a conversation with him or her, the information on paper may prove to be misleading. Personal interviews, when considering we are admitting students to a professional degree program, are an important tool that can make the difference between admitting individual A versus individual B and the predicted success of the one selected. What may be gleaned from an individual during a personal interview includes whether the individual has a professional demeanor and truly understands that the undertaking before him or her contains a code of professionalism and ethics.

One can also gather information about the candidate's experiences that may have led him or her toward optometry as a career choice. In a live conversation, an interviewer can see how animated the candidate is when responding to questions. Watching body language and comfort level are other clues that can be used to help predict future performance. Even personality fit may come into play. The experienced interviewer relies on these clues, and his or her assessment becomes more certain, allowing for the formation of a more reliable opinion. At least, that is my opinion.

We at NSUCO intend to continue conducting personal interviews because we believe them to be a cornerstone of our admissions process. We have graduated many competent students over the past 18 years and are proud to say we now have 1,491 alumni. Numerous graduates have risen to top spots among their professional associations or within their practice modalities. Some have become elected officials, some have become educators, others work in the military or public health arenas, but all have been educated by NSUCO according to the college's mission:

*"The mission of the College of Optometry is to prepare, educate, and train optometric physicians to practice at the highest level of proficiency, integrity, and professionalism and to provide a multidisciplinary environment that encourages and supports scholarship, community service, and lifelong learning."*

And all our graduates had to undergo a personal interview before being admitted, so we must be doing something right.



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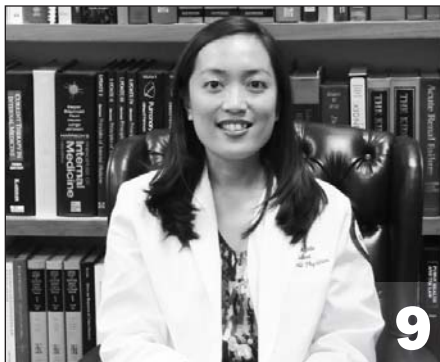
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The Doctor of Optometry Program at the Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry is fully accredited by The Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE). The ACOE (243 N. Lindbergh Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri; telephone number 800-365-2219) is the accrediting body for professional degree programs offered by all optometric institutions in the United States.

Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia, 30033-4097; telephone number: 404-679-4501) to award associate's, bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees.

Nova Southeastern University admits students of any race, color, sex, age, nondisqualifying disability, religion or creed, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school, and does not discriminate in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.



# Chancellor's Communiqué

A Message from the Health Professions Division Chancellor  
**Frederick Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.**

"... it's comforting to know we have the strength, resolve, and resources to provide the students with the best education possible."

When the new academic year commenced for the various colleges comprising the Health Professions Division this past summer, I experienced a true sense of happiness when I attended the numerous orientation and white coat ceremonies and saw all the bright new faces in front of me that will one day be providing health care services throughout the United States and across the globe.

During these various ceremonies, the qualities that struck me the most about the incoming students were their communicative capabilities and the dramatic desire they exhibited in regard to becoming health care professionals. I am proud to report that this tangible commitment to their education and future careers was evidenced throughout our various HPD colleges and programs during these orientation exercises.

I know how committed they are based on the conversations I've had with them. I've also spoken with many of their parents and loved ones, who offered laudatory words about the various orientation and white coat ceremonies they attended and the way they were carried out with dignity. For most of the attendees, it was their first view of what we at the NSU Health Professions Division believe professional attitude is all about. However, I also saw in the eyes of the student body, and particularly their parents and significant others, what I view as the pressures created by the economic morass that is so prevalent in the United States today.

That's why I'm happy to report that Nova Southeastern University and its Health Professions Division are in fine fiscal shape. I've offered the following assessment to many of the people who have spoken to me about NSU, which is that thanks to the administration of this university, from the board of trustees and president and CEO to the deans and the multiple people in charge of creating and overseeing the budgets, we are a finely-tuned economic engine.

Like any large university or business entity, we have our share of inherent problems. But in a state and nation dealing with a prolonged economic downturn that is about to enter its fourth year, it's comforting to know NSU is strong and stable. The reason I'm focusing on these issues is because they speak to the tremendous commitment that has been showcased at all university levels.

During a recent NSU President's Council meeting, I listened to Dr. George Hanbury communicate the fact that because of the efforts of the various deans, vice presidents, administrators, and functionaries that are involved with the operation of the university, we have managed to remain fiscally prudent. As a result, we are successfully surviving the economic downturn and have been able to offer assurance to all our stakeholders—from staff and faculty members to the people we serve, our students—that we are a very secure, economically fit institution. Whether we're administrators or faculty and staff members, the bottom line is we are here to serve the needs of our educational partners, who happen to be our students.

Based on the topics I just discussed, it's comforting to know we have the strength, resolve, and resources to provide the students with the best education possible. It's also a privilege to know we are providing them with as much knowledge and mentorship as we possibly can through a group of dedicated faculty and staff members.

Just as it is our goal to make our students feel nurtured and safe, the same is true for our faculty and staff members, who should also feel "safe" in this very large economic not-for-profit venture called Nova Southeastern University that is being directed by the type of individuals who are leading it—namely our exceptional executive administration and forward-thinking board of trustees.

## NSUCO Participates in Community Health Education and Outreach

Following are just a few examples of the community outreach activities conducted this summer that featured College of Optometry participation:

**Special Olympics Opening Eyes** – On May 13-14, at the Wide World of Sports in Orlando, Florida, NSUCO faculty members and students provided vision care and sports eyewear to those athletes with intellectual disabilities at the Special Olympics state games.

**Yoga Program for the Blind and Visually Impaired at the Lighthouse of Broward** – On the third Saturday of each month, op-

tometry students help verbally guide class participants into yoga poses for mindful relaxation and exercise.

**NSU Area Health Education Centers Program Summer Camp** – On June 17, faculty members and students became camp counselors and created interest in the health professions among underrepresented populations.

**Memorial Healthcare Systems Back-to-School Physicals** – In August, optometry students from the student chapter of Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity and the National Optometric Student Association were contracted to assist with visual acuity testing for South Broward Boys and Girls Clubs, serving over 400 children.

## College of Optometry Ranks Third in Community Collaborations at NSU

In 2010, pursuant to award of the prestigious Carnegie Foundation Elective Category of Community Engaged, NSU initiated the Community Collaboration Database to document each academic and administrative unit's affiliations and activities with communities. The College of Optometry ranked third of all academic units at NSU in the number of community collaborations (following the Center for Psychological Studies and the College of Osteopathic Medicine).

While the majority of these affiliations provide clinical training for optometric externs or residents, the college also participates in care for children with learning-related vision problems, multicenter community research, local health fairs, and health promotion events. Local student clubs are affiliated with national associations and perform a variety of service activities.

As a result of these accomplishments, NSU was rated as one of the top 20 colleges in the nation committed to community service by *BestCollegesOnline*, coming in at number 18. "It's great to be recognized for all the service we do in the community, said NSU President George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D. "We participate in myriad community service projects ranging from protecting local marine life and hosting health care assessments to hosting nonprofit fund-raising walks and runs on our main campus."



## NOSA Wins STUEY Award

*OD4 Johnny Morette receives the Graduate Organization of the Year STUEY on behalf of the National Optometric Student Association.*

The College of Optometry is proud to announce that the National Optometric Student Association (NOSA) garnered the NSU Graduate Organization of the Year Award at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual NSU Student Life Achievement (STUEY) Awards ceremony, which was held April 12 at the Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center on campus.

The STUEYS are an annual competition that is sponsored, coordinated, and mounted by NSU's Department of Student Affairs. After nominations are solicited from the NSU community, a university-wide committee selects five finalists in each category. NOSA members were present at the ceremony and were thrilled to receive this highly prized award commemorating their achievement.

NOSA is a leader in the South Florida community, working in conjunction with the National Optometric Association to ad-

vance the visual health of minority populations. NOSA actively participates in Memorial Healthcare System's back-to-school health and vision screenings, which last year provided about 800 screenings for students in underserved Broward County communities. NOSA also participates annually in a multidisciplinary, 10-day service trip to Jamaica, providing optometric care to disadvantaged residents of that country.

NOSA members have also forged a mutually rewarding relationship with the medical magnet program at Stranahan High School in Fort Lauderdale. Some of the activities conducted on behalf of the magnet program include speaking to students about the profession of optometry, the importance of community involvement and academic excellence, and Nova Southeastern University's College of Optometry. Given all the club does, NOSA was certainly deserving of this award.



## In Memoriam: Michael Fish

By OD3 George Hanna and OD3 Blake Hutto



There are rare opportunities in life when you get to meet someone who has such a positive effect on you and makes you want to become a better person. In August 2009, we had the honor of meeting Michael Fish, who has truly changed our lives forever. Mike, a former nuclear engineer for the U.S. Navy, decided to make a change late in life to better benefit his

family and serve his community. Fortunately for us, the choice he made was to attend optometry school at Nova Southeastern University. Starting optometry school required a shifting of priorities for Mike, but the one thing that never changed was that his family always came first.

The father of two wonderful children, Jared and Hannah, and a loving and attentive husband to his wife Kathleen, Mike persevered in playing these roles well while facing the challenges presented by optometry school. As a class, we were all very fortunate to witness Mike navigate through the hardships of school, while still being able to settle the nerves of the people around him in a fatherly manner. Mike apprehensively ac-

cepted the nickname "Dad," which was a shot at his age but became a name that affectionately showed our respect and admiration for him. Mike employed such characteristics as honesty, wisdom, servant-hood, humility, and unrelenting selflessness, which he displayed unconditionally to the entire class.

In addition to his passion for his family, school, and the Pittsburgh Steelers, Mike was always attentive to the necessity of being physically active, which he chose to do through cycling. Unfortunately, on May 14, 2011, Mike was involved in a cycling accident that rendered our time with him much too brief as he did not survive. The shock of the unforeseen event brought dismay and sadness, but the two were quickly met with feelings of honor and pride of having taken part in Mike's life. Nearly six months later, it seems as though the event only happened yesterday, and with it comes a plethora of emotions and challenges of how to deal with Mike's passing. Fortunately, in our time spent with Mike, he was giving us the tools necessary to put our optometry family first and come together in helping each other cope with the loss. It's our every hope that Mike's legacy continues on in deed and in awareness. Efforts have been taken to remember Mike's life with a commemorative lapel pin, which reminds us to not only share the road with cyclists, but to take value in every day that we are given.



Pictured are Blake Hutto and Cliff Courtenay, O.D., past GOA president.

**OD3 Blake Hutto** was the recipient of the Georgia Optometric Association's (GOA) Allan Wexler Scholarship for 2011. The \$1,500 scholarship is given each year to one Georgia resident based upon academic standing, optometric and community involvement, and submission of an essay regarding a topic selected by the Georgia Optometric Association. Hutto received his scholarship award during the GOA's annual meeting in Hilton Head, South Carolina.

**OD4 Ruth Smith** was the recipient of a \$3,000 Graduate Connections Grant, which underwrites all expenses associated with attending a Cleinman Performance Network meeting—a business development network comprising many of North America's leading optometrists and owners of private practices. This exclusive invitation holds the potential for employment, including association leading to ownership. Cleinman Performance Partners, Inc., in partnership with HOYA Vision Care, launched the Graduate Connections Grant Program at NSUCO with a special presentation on December 9, 2010. Smith was awarded the grant for showing the interest, drive, and determination needed to succeed in private optometry practice.



Ruth Smith

**OD4 See Vang** was named as an American Optometric Foundation (AOF) Class of 2011 Carl Zeiss Fellow. Now in its fifth year of existence, the fellowship program consists of students selected from U.S. schools and colleges of optometry and represents individuals demonstrating potential for strong leadership in independent practice. Sponsored by Carl Zeiss and administered by the AOF, the fellowships honor outstanding achievement by third-year optometry students. Each fellowship includes a \$5,000 award made directly to the financial aid office at the student's college to offset the fourth year of optometric education.

See Vang



## Pre-Optometry Day Offers Diverse Activities to Attendees

By Michael Bacigalupi, O.D., M.S., FAAO, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

The NSUCO Sixth Annual Pre-Optometry Day was held on July 23 in conjunction with the Florida Optometric Association (FOA) Annual Convention's Adventures at 'See' event held at the Walt Disney World Dolphin Resort in Orlando, Florida. Initiated in July 2006, the one-day program has continued to grow in popularity and participation.

Dr. Bacigalupi gave a presentation that encompassed admissions requirements and a picturesque description of the uniqueness of NSUCO and South Florida. Undergraduate students from the University of Central Florida, the University of Florida, Florida International University, the University of South Florida, Florida State University, Miami Dade College, and the University of North Florida also participated in the festivities. They were also given an opportunity to network, share ideas, and get to know each other as future colleagues.

During the event, attendees were introduced to current FOA leaders Dr. Kenny Boyle, Dr. Michael Fregger, Dr. Barry Frauens, Dr. Andrew Wiles, and Dr. David Rouse, who discussed the future of the profession and why they had chosen to become optometrists. Dr. Joe Ellis, immediate past president of the American Optometric Association, also made a special appearance at Pre-Optometry Day.

The students were also given a chance to explore the exhibit hall with current NSUCO optometry students, who guided them through the exhibit hall

and explained why technology is so important in the optometric field. All were impressed with the scanning lasers, imaging systems, and contact lens advancements.

During the informative lunch session, Dr. Annette Bade presented a few case studies on "Optometric Patient Care," while Dr. David Loshin, NSUCO dean, provided his personal words of wisdom and guidance to the students. Following lunch, a panel discussion featuring NSUCO students was conducted that allowed the attendees to ask questions ranging from program difficulty to fun activities in South Florida. This was truly the highlight of the day for the pre-optometry students, who enjoyed hearing from their future peers about their experiences in professional school.

The day concluded with the Third Annual Pre-Optometry Super Bowl, which comprises a test of knowledge about optometry, NSUCO, and politics. This fun event also offers an opportunity for the winning team to take home a traveling trophy—and earn bragging rights for a year. For the past two years, the trophy had remained at home in South Florida at Florida International University. But things have changed. This year, the trophy will make its home at the University of South Florida in Tampa.







## Class of 2015 Welcomed into NSUCO Optometric Family

By Michael Bacigalupi, O.D., M.S., FAAO, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

During the first week of August, 102 talented young people (38 men and 64 women) embarked on their optometric education. This group represents 95 students in our four-year traditional program and 7 in our five-year extended program. We are focused on preparing this next generation of optometric physicians to practice at the highest levels of proficiency, integrity, and professionalism.

Their first week at NSUCO was split between orientation activities and classes that kicked off on a Sunday with our Family Welcome Day. The next day started early at 8:00 a.m. with the Meet Your Administrators event and ended late in the evening with Dr. Loshin's Welcome Dinner. After a busy Tuesday, our new students participated in a fun SGA Organization Fair and Ice Cream Social with their "bigs." Our Big/Little program continues to flourish with upperclassmen guiding our new students through the challenges of professional school. On Thursday, our students focused on ophthalmic equipment, where they learned from our current students and vendors about the new instruments they are investing in.

Speaking of spending money, they also had a great presentation from the Office of Debt Management about minimizing debt while in optometry school. The busy week wrapped up with the fabulous Third Annual Fort Lauderdale Bus Tour, where our out-of-town students get to see some of the beautiful sights around Fort Lauderdale. All in all, it was a busy, fun-filled week.

The class of 2015 began the NSUCO program with outstanding academic credentials. After receiving 1,070 applications to NSU from the centralized application service, we were able to select a wonderful group of young people to become part of our optometry family. The statistics are as follows:

**Average GPA: 3.32**  
**Academic Average on the OAT: 319**  
**Total Science on the OAT: 320**  
**Entering with Bachelor's Degree: 94**  
**Entering with Graduate Degrees: 5**  
**States Represented: 23**  
**Florida Students: 43**  
**Canadian Students: 8**  
**Average Age: 24.2**

Each year, we have continued to work toward improving the quality of our applicants even during these times of change in optometric education. This year, NSUCO ranked third in the nation in number of applicants behind Illinois College of Optometry and Pennsylvania College of Optometry. In addition, our applicant-to-matriculant ratio was second only to State University of New York College of Optometry. Earlier this year, we awarded the first NSUCO Alumni Association Scholarship to an outstanding incoming student. Support like this from our alumni will certainly allow us to continue to improve the quality of our program each year. We are so grateful for this scholarship and look forward to many more successful partnerships.





## Survive and Thrive: OD4 Jenalyn Jotie Overcomes Obstacles to Achieve Optometric Success

By Scott Colton, B.A., APR, Co-Editor, The Visionary

### SIDETRACKED AND BLINDSIDED

After graduating from high school in the spring of 1996, all seemed right with Jotie's world as she made plans to pursue her teaching career by attending the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) in the fall and spend some time with her high school sweetheart, who now resided in Orlando, Florida. "The summer before I was to start at UCSD, I wanted to visit my boyfriend, who was in the Navy and about to graduate from nuclear power school," said Jotie, who would join the Navy over a decade later.

"My mom told me that if I attended his graduation, she would kick me out of the house, that I would never be allowed back, and that I would be cut off financially," she added. "Neither of my parents were big fans of my boyfriend, but I just didn't believe my mom would actually follow through on her ultimatums, so I went."

Life is often a circuitous journey that leads us in directions we never would have fathomed if we possessed the ability to totally determine our own destinies. Just ask fourth-year student Jenalyn Jotie, COA, a current ensign in the U.S. Navy who surprised even herself by pursuing a career in optometry following a series of emotionally bruising life events that instilled within her a true survivor spirit.

Jotie, who was born in a small rural town in the Philippines, relocated to San Diego, California, with her mother when she was just three months old while her father served overseas in the Navy. "My mother was a stay-at-home mom who made it clear that the primary focus for me and my three younger siblings was to work hard in school and get into college, so that's what we did," she explained. "Neither of my parents had a college degree, which is why they instilled in us the importance of education."

As a child growing up in sunny California, Jotie's mom tried to influence her oldest child to pursue a career in nursing, but Jotie had other ideas. "There are a lot of nurses in my family, so I initially thought I would follow a similar career path," she said. "But what I really wanted to do was become an elementary school teacher."

Unfortunately, Jotie soon discovered her mom's threats were anything but idle. Without a home to return to in California, and no financial assets to her name at the tender age of 18, Jotie's options were indeed limited. "I felt like I had no other choice but to stay with my boyfriend, so we got married at an Orlando courthouse," said Jotie, who was about to embark on a hellish, ripped-from-the-headlines type of tabloid life.

Not long after the couple married, the Navy relocated Jotie and her husband to Saratoga Springs, New York, which is where her honeymoon quickly turned nightmarish. After returning home one evening from her job at the retail store Sears, Jotie was shocked to find her husband gone—and an ominous note lying on the dining room table. "In the letter, he said he had gone off with a navy friend, who had threatened to kill him and me if he didn't go," she explained. "He told me not to tell the police and that he would try to be back in a few days."

With her world crumbling around her, Jotie suddenly recalled an odd conversation she'd had with her husband several weeks back. "He had been joking around about how he and his friend had the smarts and could get away with robbing a bank," said Jotie, who was understandably concerned for both her and her husband's safety. "I thought he was joking when he said it, but once I found the letter, I knew I had to tell the police."

As it turned out, her husband had indeed gone AWOL with his navy accomplice to perpetrate the nefarious crime he had joked about with Jotie weeks earlier. "The authorities found my husband and his friend just as they were tossing their navy uniforms into a dumpster in New Jersey," she stated. "In our station wagon, the police found ski masks, rifles, and all the basic evidence needed to show what they were planning to do, which was rob a bank."

When Jotie visited her husband in the brig (military prison), the experience proved to be both surreal and scary as she came face-to-face with him for the first time following his arrest. "It was like being in a movie, with him wearing an orange jumpsuit and me talking to him behind protective glass," she recalled. "He wanted me to tell the authorities he was forced into going AWOL and plotting the crime, that he had been threatened, and that it wasn't his fault. But I really didn't believe that was true. I thought that if he was capable of robbing a bank, he was probably capable of hurting me in some way as well."

With the evidence so clearly stacked against him, her husband was given a choice: be court-martialed and go through a military trial or be dishonorably discharged. Wisely, he selected the dishonorable discharge option, which meant the Navy would pay for Jotie and her husband to move back to California. However, as they drove their station wagon westward, it broke down in New Mexico, forcing the couple to hitchhike the rest of the way.

Because of their limited financial resources, Jotie and her husband moved in with his mother, which placed further strain on their increasingly wobbly marriage. Fortunately, a thaw in her frosty familial relationship provided Jotie with a sense of hope—and a new career direction. "After the ordeal I had just gone through, my mom started talking to me again," she explained. "I think she realized how much trouble I was in, so I asked for her advice, and she said I should go back to school and try to get out of the relationship."

### **OPTOMETRY CAREER COMES INTO FOCUS**

It was during one of these conversations that her mother suggested Jotie attend a local vocational college called Pima Medical Institute in Chula Vista, California. At the time, Pima only offered three certificate programs: medical assisting, ophthalmic assisting, and veterinary assisting—none of which stirred much excitement within Jotie. "I really attended Pima to win my mom's love back," admitted Jotie. "I knew I didn't want to deal with a lot of blood, so that nixed the medical assisting program. I also knew I didn't want to deal with animals, so that eliminated the veterinary assistant program, which left ophthalmic assisting."

Although she had been a longtime wearer of contact lenses and glasses, Jotie had never considered pursuing any type of eye care career. Nevertheless, she took odd jobs to pay the tuition and wholeheartedly dedicated herself to her new educational endeavor, graduating with honors from the one-year Pima Ophthalmic Medical Assistant Program in 1999.

After completing the certificate program, she was hired as an ophthalmic technician by the externship site she had trained at months earlier. "My goal was to save up enough money so I could get divorced," said Jotie, who was eventually able to end her ill-fated three-year marriage. She also continued her professional development by attending Palomar College in San Marcos, California, taking one general education course a semester in the regional occupational program in ophthalmic assisting for several years while working fulltime.

"I still didn't know exactly what I wanted to do," said Jotie, who continued to work as an ophthalmic technician. "For awhile I thought I wanted to become an ophthalmologist because I became fascinated with the inner workings of the eye and also enjoyed dealing with patients. I would talk about my aspirations with the ophthalmologists I worked with, but they would tell me that if they could start their lives over again, they wouldn't go into medicine. They said they were often on call and didn't get to spend that much time with their families."

"I knew I wanted to get married again and have a family of my own, so I considered the optometry option instead because the optometrists I worked with seemed happier and interacted with their patients more than the ophthalmologists did," she added. "That's why I chose optometry, because I could have more control of my life, continue to be involved in eye care, and deal with patients on a more-personal basis."

### **NSU IN HER SIGHTS**

With her sights now set on an optometric career, Jotie attended the University of California, San Diego, earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology with minors in Chemistry and Biology in June 2008. Then came the momentous decision of choosing the optometry school she wanted to attend. "I applied to three optometry schools, including NSU," said Jotie, who received a hearty sales pitch from an ophthalmologist she knew. "He thought NSU would be a great fit for me because of the integration of various health professional programs that would allow me to take classes with dental, medical, and allied health students."

In addition to the exceptional academic and clinical opportunities NSU's College of Optometry would provide, Jotie relished the prospect of moving to the East Coast and starting anew. "I didn't know anybody down here," she explained. "I knew that if I came to Nova, I would be away from my family, which would represent a fresh start."

Making the most of her time at NSUCO, Jotie quickly established herself as an academic leader, earning placement on the college's dean's list multiple times, becoming a member of the Beta Sigma Kappa student organization, serving as secretary of



the Gold Key Honor Society, and volunteering as the national student liaison for the Armed Forces Optometric Society. She also has been actively involved with the Nova Optometric Practice Management Association (NOPMA), including serving as the organization's president in the previous academic year.

"I enjoy giving something back to my school," said Jotie, who was a 2011 NSUCO finalist in Wal-Mart's Project Foresight business plan competition. "I wouldn't say I'm involved in a lot of activities, but the ones I am involved with I like to give 100 percent to. I was extremely involved with NOPMA because I truly believe that the optometric profession should be controlled by optometrists. That's why I think it's very important for the students to learn about business, because it's important to the future of independent optometry for us to learn how to manage our businesses. As the NOPMA president, I wanted to help my fellow classmates and provide them with the tools that will help them become more successful."

Because she practices what she preaches, Jotie recently completed the NSU H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and En-

trepreneurship's Mini M.B.A. program, which is a 10-day certificate program that provides a crash course in business finance, marketing, and negotiation for optometrists.

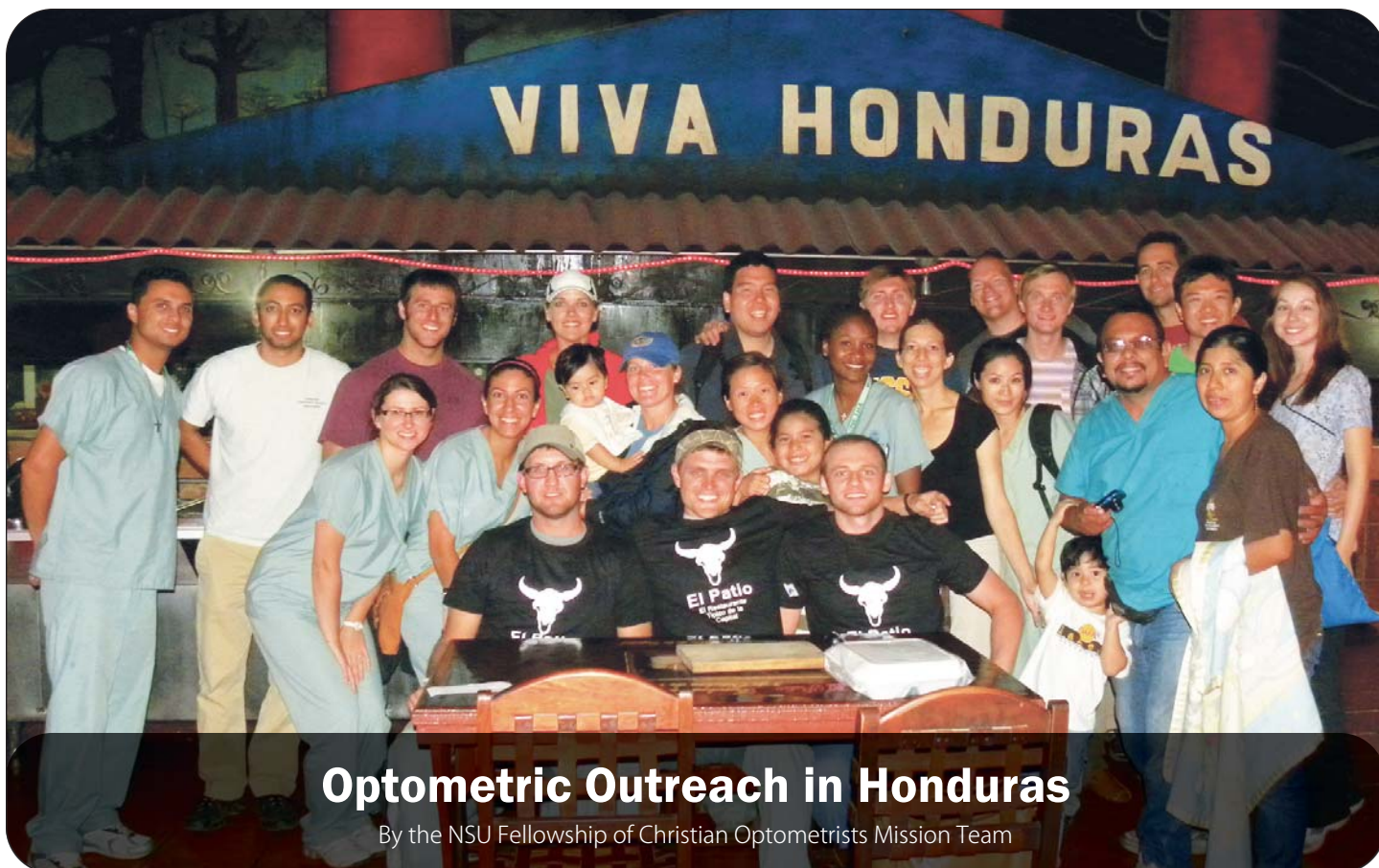
With graduation looming on her horizon in May 2012, Jotie will spend the following four years repaying her commitment to the Navy, with the hope of eventually joining an optometric group practice further down the career road. However, when she embarks on her postgraduate optometric odyssey next year, Jotie hopes to compassionately serve her patients while also impart the invaluable life lessons she's learned.

"I think my greatest strength is that I'm able to make the best of every situation I'm in, that if I'm thrown into a difficult situation, I know I will be able to survive—and thrive," she concluded. "That's why I want to serve as a role model for those who have had to overcome adversity. There were times when I wanted to give up, but I persisted toward my goals because of the support of a few inspiring individuals. They believed in me before I believed in myself. I know that with hard work and a burning desire, you can achieve anything you set your mind to."



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## Optometric Outreach in Honduras

By the NSU Fellowship of Christian Optometrists Mission Team

On July 23, a cadre of 19 members from the Fellowship of Christian Optometrists (FCO) departed from Miami for Tegucigalpa, the capital city of Honduras. Our goal was to perform eye “brigades” in a different community outside Tegucigalpa each day. Before we left, our hosts provided us with a wish list of spectacle prescriptions, specific medications, and supplies for the clinic, but we had no idea what to expect when we arrived.

We didn’t know how many patients we would be seeing, what type of eye care they had received previously, and what these “brigades” were in detail. We spent several months compiling and surpassing the wish list thanks to the overwhelming generosity of friends, family, complete strangers, and corporations. Before we knew it, 26 oversize suitcases were packed with new readers, pediatric glasses and frames (specifically ordered to match the demographics), bifocals, artificial tears, glaucoma medications, and much more. In every nook and cranny that was not filled with eye care supplies, we had squeezed toys, soccer balls, games, and gifts for the children.

Our team was graciously hosted by Felipe and Dr. Valerie Colby, who have been serving and living in Honduras for 10 years. Dr. Colby had been on an FCO mission trip to Honduras when she was an optometry student at Illinois College of Optometry, and after practicing for a couple of years privately in the United States, decided to return to oversee the His Eyes clinic (<http://www.hiseyes.us/>). Thankfully, because many of us were only OD2s (who had just perfected retinoscopy) and OD3s (barely having started clinic), two other optometrists, Dr. Vadim Guy and Dr. Aaron Frey, also agreed to join us and oversee the trip.

During our stay in Honduras, we learned to use tarps to cover windows while performing retinoscopy, utilized our transillumi-

nator and 20D lens as a modified slit lamp, and took visual acuities under trees and in the rain—boy, did we miss the NSU clinic! Due to our large size, our team also had the privilege of visiting communities that were not normal eye brigade sites—from a church in San Juancito and a school in the heart of the city to a remote mountain community that required four hours of driving to reach. At this last site, we split our team into two groups to perform both eye exams and food distributions. Those not giving eye exams visited homes and distributed much-needed food to some of the poorest families in Honduras.

After performing more than 750 eye exams, dispensing 700 pairs of glasses, and organizing activities for more than 1,000 children, we thought we would be ready to come home. But, as the end of our trip drew closer, we found ourselves wishing we could stay longer. We were moved by the great need and the life-changing impact a pair of glasses or the correct medication could have on someone’s life.

For those of us who had forgotten why we had initially entered this profession in the midst of exams and studying, we were re-inspired, motivated, and encouraged. I think we all share third-year student George Hanna’s sentiment, which he expressed by saying, “The trip helped me realize that the mission’s work didn’t stop once I left Honduras, but it will continue for the rest of my life as I serve the Lord through what I love to do.”

**For more information on the trip, visit FCO’s blog at <http://fco-honduras.blogspot.com/> and its Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/124149784286436/>.**

**If you are interested in becoming a FCO member, email Megan Provence-Perry at [mp1228@nova.edu](mailto:mp1228@nova.edu) or Grant Allen at [sa724@nova.edu](mailto:sa724@nova.edu).**





# Celebrating 10 Years of Giving Back to the Underserved in Jamaica

By OD3 Babita Gounden, President, National Optometric Student Association

Daniel is an 11-year-old boy who is struggling to exist in the rural part of Jamaica. He travels daily by foot to a distant bus stop to go to school. He's ready for a day of learning, but when he finally arrives, the teacher has to help him as best she can to complete the assigned schoolwork.

In addition to not seeing properly, he's experiencing pain in one of his eyes. His mother prays over some home remedies as she carefully applies them over the affected eye. He needs to see an eye doctor, but there is no eye care professional close enough to send him to. As the months pass, his condition worsens. His eye starts to become hazy, and his vision deteriorates to the point where he can only see hand motion.

Unfortunately, different versions of this story are all too familiar in Jamaica. The scarce availability of basic health care throughout the island has led to a high prevalence of untreated systemic disease, as well as eye diseases and blindness. To help alleviate the problem, students from NSUCO's National Optometric Student Association (NOSA) traveled to Jamaica in June 2011 as part of an interdisciplinary team of NSU health care providers from the disciplines of osteopathic medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, physical therapy, and occupational therapy to provide health care.

During the 10-day medical outreach trip, NOSA provided over 400 exams to underserved individuals and came equipped with over 800 pairs of glasses and various medications to treat infections and glaucoma. In addition, patients were educated regarding their conditions in hopes of slowing the progression of their disorders.

For 10 years, NOSA has participated in the Jamaica medical mission, which is coordinated through NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine. Sherrol A. Reynolds, O.D., and 2001 NSUCO alumni member Noel Henry, O.D., along with 16 NOSA students, participated. Because of the interdisciplinary focus of this mission trip, various health needs were addressed while the students were exposed to an invaluable learning—and life—experience.

Although each participant worked hard, there was time to take in the breathtaking sights of this beautiful island. The volunteers climbed the famous Dunn's River Falls, zip-lined down Mystic Mountain, went tubing down rivers that meandered through lush mountains, met the locals at a community fest, and simply enjoyed time with other NSU Health Professions Division students.

The conclusion of our trip consisted of a huge thank you from the Jamaican people, who provided us with a beautiful dinner and presentation at the Sandals beach resort. Of course, this incredible experience would not be possible were it not for Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O., from the College of Osteopathic Medicine, who has worked tirelessly over the past decade to make this experience so special for both students and patients.

With the support of NSU's College of Optometry and our good friends at the Fort Lauderdale Lions Club, NOSA members were able to touch the lives of hundreds of needy individuals. Sadly, we were unable to improve Daniel's sight because he suffered such severe eye damage. Still, we persevere to preserve the precious gift of sight.



# Student Organizations Maintain Active Agenda

By OD3 George Hanna  
President, Student Government Association

## Student Government Association (SGA)

The Student Government Association is the organization that overlooks all of the clubs in the College of Optometry. The SGA organizes many fund-raising and social activities to improve student life and encourages involvement above and beyond academics. In March, the SGA hosted the annual Eyeball at the So Cool Lounge in Miami, which featured an ice bar that proved to be the perfect place to “chill.” The current executive board comprises George Hanna (president), Jenny Cusson (vice president), Jenny Chan (secretary), and Mary Kate Moring (treasurer).

We have been busy promoting school spirit and bringing classes together. The year began with orientation week, which included the annual Big/Little Ice Cream Social and Organization Fair. Second-year students were paired up with first-year students as big brothers and sisters to introduce them to organizations within the college while enjoying some ice cream. The SGA also organized the equipment fair during which students bought their diagnostic equipment, but not before getting the advice of the upperclassmen. This is always an exciting night for the students since they are buying equipment they will use for the remainder of their careers. The Second Annual Back to School Beach Bash was held the following week. Students got to enjoy a beautiful day at the beach with lots of food and sunshine. The American Optometric Student Association held its annual beach volleyball tournament at this event, and team “Green Apple Quick Step” was crowned champion.

We look forward to the upcoming events of this school year, which will include the inaugural SGA charity event, from which all proceeds will go to a select charity or organization, with some revenues also going toward this year’s EyeBall. We, as the executive board, are working hard and are very excited for a fun-filled academic year.

## American Optometric Student Association (AOSA)

The AOSA is committed to promoting the optometric profession, enhancing the education and welfare of optometry students, as well as enhancing the vision and ocular health of the public. In April, the organization held its annual Student Bowl, which was highly competitive and a lot of fun. Afterward, Optometry Pictionary was played, with prizes provided to the winning team. This year, George Hanna, a then second-year student, won the Student Bowl. He then went on to represent Nova at Optometry’s Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, in June.

## The College of Optometrists in Vision Development (COVD)

The College of Optometrists in Vision Development (COVD) is an international association comprising optometrists, students, and vision therapists. This group of dedicated people supports and provides services aimed at developing, rehabilitating, and/or enhancing vision and the visual system. The student chapter at NSU’s College of Optometry is working toward promoting this wonderful area of optometry. This year’s meetings will include lectures such as incorporating vision therapy into a practice, binocular vision, sports vision, pediatrics, special needs patients, residencies, the fellowship process (and more) from faculty members, and private practice ODs.



### **Fellowship of Christian Optometrists (FCO)**

The Fellowship of Christian Optometrists (FCO) is a not-for-profit organization of Christian optometrists, optometry students, and allied ophthalmic personnel committed to worldwide eye care missions and intraprofessional Christian fellowship. NSU's FCO chapter is a free club that meets several times each month, both on and off campus. There are additional ways to get involved in the organization other than by simply attending meetings. These opportunities include attending the FCO International Conference in Indiana in November and partaking in a mission trip at the end of the winter semester.

### **Florida Optometric Student Association (FOSA)**

FOSA is the student division of the Florida Optometric Association. Our primary goal is to assist, support, and guide students into the family of Florida optometry. Students are updated on statewide optometric news and encouraged to take an active role in legislative issues that impact the profession. FOSA coordinates numerous social events that provide optometry students the opportunity to meet practicing optometrists and offer them the ability to set themselves apart in a competitive job market. These events also provide an environment for students to network and create future career opportunities, as well as allow them to become familiar with different modes of practice. Overall, it is FOSA's responsibility to introduce students that plan on practicing in Florida to doctors that will assist them in the formation of their optometric careers.

### **Nova Optometric Practice Management Association (NOPMA)**

NOPMA's mission is to provide education about the business aspects of the profession, to inspire students to find ways to accomplish their professional goals, and to help them make the transition from the textbook and clinical education to the real world of optometry. The club elected new officers this summer, and since then has been working hard to make improvements that include a more-robust lecture schedule and a fresh Web site (located at <http://web.me.com/nsu.nopma/nopma/Welcome.html>) that not only provides members with club information, but also tools to help them research and connect with the business world. The first lecture of the semester, entitled "The Pros and Cons of Different Practice Modes," was quite a success, drawing in more than 160 students.

The remainder of the year will include lectures from Dr. Cory Lessner, a renowned laser surgeon, and Dr. Justin Bazan, who has made several television appearances on programs such as *Good Morning America* and *Fox Health News*. NOPMA will also host the upcoming Student Optometric Leadership Network (SOLN) meeting in Orlando, Florida, in April 2012. SOLN is a committee of all the practice management club presidents from each optometry school.

### **National Optometric Student Association (NOSA)**

The National Optometric Student Association is dedicated to the recruitment of multicultural students in order to provide service to communities locally, nationally, and internationally through vision screenings, educational lectures, and public service. Every summer, the organization makes a medical mission trip to Jamaica, where faculty members and students pro-

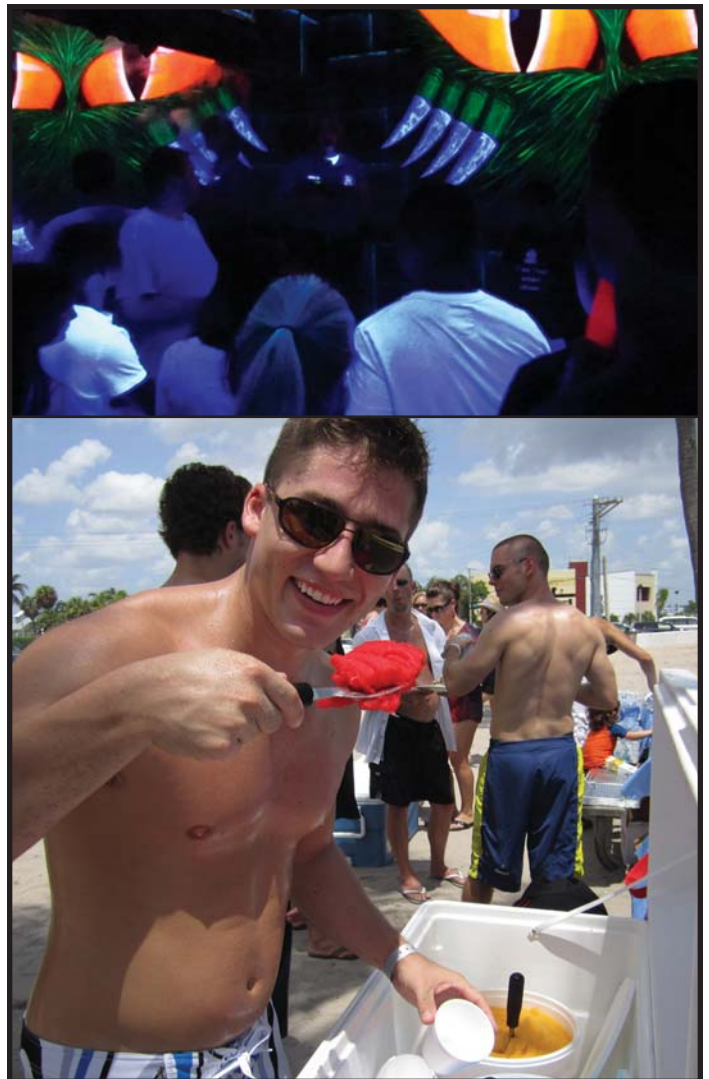
vide complete eye exams to hundreds of individuals in need. Our most recent events have included two vision screenings, a bowling social, and the Jamaica medical mission trip.

### **Optometric Student Association for Ocular Disease (OSAOD)**

OSAOD's primary mission is to enhance the ocular disease education provided by Nova's excellent faculty. The meetings cover a wide range of topics on anterior and posterior diseases, along with important case reviews. OSAOD strives to present the latest advances in evidence-based medicine.

### **Student Volunteers for Optometric Services to Humanity (SVOSH)**

SVOSH, which is one of the oldest clubs at the college, comprises a group of dedicated optometry students who volunteer their time to those in need by means of vision screenings, neutralization activities, and active participation with the local Lion's Club. Each year, the SVOSH chapter at NSUCO aims to raise money to go toward an annual mission trip in an underserved South or Central American country. Optometry students and dedicated doctors work together for four days in a foreign country providing comprehensive eye exams, dispensing eyeglasses, and donating medications to those in need.







## Canadian Association of Optometry Students Overview

By OD4 Wes McCann, CAOS Co-President

The Nova chapter of the Canadian Association of Optometry Students (CAOS), founded by Christina Chan and Lisa Cossetto in 2008, is an organization dedicated to increasing student awareness about current issues and challenges facing the profession of optometry in Canada.

The CAOS also provides a platform for networking and encourages strong communication and involvement between students in schools around the United States and Canada along with their future coworkers back home. Chapters also exist at Waterloo, PCO, PUCO, SUNY, NECO, and ICO. For the past two years Wes McCann and Nina Gupta have been co-presidents and international liaisons of the Nova chapter.

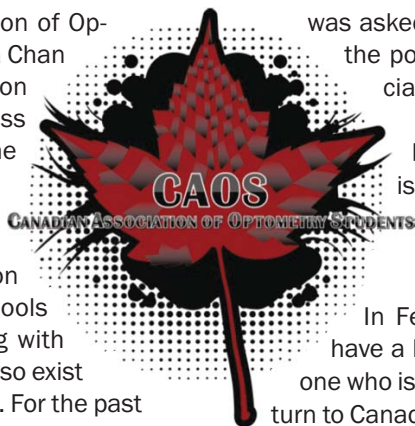
The academic year of 2010-11 was filled with many social and networking events that allowed students and colleagues to connect with one another. At the beginning of the school year in August 2010, the CAOS hosted a barbeque social for all the Canadian students at NSUCO. The primary purpose of this event was to meet the OD1s and give them the opportunity to network with upperclassmen. It was also a fun way to start off the year and speak to students about what they would like to learn more about as CAOS members.

The Canadian Thanksgiving Potluck is a yearly tradition that began when the chapter was established in 2008. In October 2010, the private dining room in the Health Professions Division's cafeteria was reserved for a festive dinner. Each person

was asked to RSVP with which dish they would bring to the potluck, and all the attendees were very appreciative to be able to celebrate even though they were so far away from their family and friends back home. This is one of the CAOS events that is open to nonmembers, which gives us the opportunity to share Canadian traditions with our American classmates.

In February 2011, we were fortunate enough to have a live webinar with two Canadian ODs, including one who is the liaison for American students wishing to return to Canada. Microphones were set up so students could ask questions throughout the evening. Topics included Canadian boards, scope of practice, finding a job after graduation, incorporating an optical into your practice, how to research where to practice, malpractice insurance, EMR, vision therapy and other subspecialty demands, and OHIP coverage. The information gained from this meeting was invaluable and very much appreciated by every single CAOS member.

The CAOS is a valuable organization to Canadian students studying optometry in the United States. Up to 20 percent of students studying optometry in some U.S. schools are Canadian students. In fact, there are nearly as many Canadian students studying optometry in the United States as in Canada. Without this valuable organization, Canadian students would be on their own to research how the profession of optometry, laws, policies, and distributors differ between our two countries.







Dr. Bacigalupi



Dr. Bade



Dr. Vollmer



Dr. Jiang



Dr. Leasher



Dr. Tea

**Michael Bacigalupi, O.D., M.B.A., FAAO.** Dr. Bacigalupi's article entitled "Amaurosis Fugax – A Clinical Review" that was published in *The Internet Journal of Allied Health Sciences and Practice* in April 2006 is consistently the top-read paper over the past few years. For example, in April 2011, it came up in searches 18,000 times.

**Annette Bade, O.D., FAAO,** was elected president of the Broward County Optometric Society for 2011; **Lori Vollmer, O.D., FAAO,** will serve as vice president.

**Bai-chaun Jiang, Ph.D.,** was invited to serve as a visiting professor last summer at Fudan University, Wenzhou Medical College, and Tianjin Eye Hospital. Dr. Jiang presented lectures on such topics as "How to Start a Research Project," "Accommodation and Vergence," and "Retinal Image Quality."

**Janet Leasher, O.D., M.P.H., FAAO,** was awarded a three-week visiting scholarship to teach in the Master of Optometry program at the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya School of Optics and Optometry in Barcelona by the Ministry of Education of Spain. During her stay, she presented lectures in general optometry procedures, sports vision and public health, as well as participated in laboratories and clinical teaching. She collaborated with colleagues of the UNESCO Chair in Visual Health and Development to cultivate research in refractive error in developing countries. The resulting research was presented at ophthalmology's Second Ibero-American Congress of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight in Lima, Peru.

**Yin Tea, O.D., FAAO,** was invited to lecture at Tianjin University in Tianjin, China, in May, where she discussed the topic "Vision and Learning."

## Distinguished Trio Earns Diplomate Status



Dr. Frauens



Dr. Pizzimenti



Dr. Wagner

Three NSUCO faculty members are among the first in the nation to attain the new credential of Diplomate of the American Board of Optometry—**Barry J. Frauens, O.D., FAAO, Joseph Pizzimenti, O.D., FAAO, and Heidi Wagner, O.D., M.P.H., FAAO.**

Board certification through the American Board of Optometry is a voluntary process that establishes standards that demonstrate a Doctor of Optometry has exceeded the basic requirement(s) of the National Board of Examiners in optometry needed to obtain initial state licensure for optometric practice. Attaining Diplomate credentialing by the American Board of Optometry provides assurance that optometric physicians are maintaining the appropriate knowledge, skills, and experience needed to deliver quality patient care in optometry throughout their careers.

# Transitions

Two longtime members of the College of Optometry retired in 2011. **N. Scott Gorman, O.D., M.S., Ed.D., FAAO**, who retired from the college in April, had been with NSUCO since its infancy in 1991, when it was part of Southeastern University of the Health Sciences. In his early years, Dr. Gorman served as professor of optometry and associate dean for clinical affairs. He continued in that position until 1997 when he returned to faculty. Within the ensuing months, Dr. Gorman was asked to become director of continuing education and alumni affairs, developing and coordinating continuing education programs and overseeing the activities of the fledgling alumni chapter. Most recently, Dr. Gorman served as the college's first official director of development. Dr. Gorman was a fixture at the college and served as editor of *The Visionary* magazine until October 2010. He had also served on various committees of the American Optometric Association and ASCO during his long career in optometric education.

**Barbara Karpel, M.S.**, director of administration, retired in June 2011. Karpel had worked at the college since August 1995, and during her 15-plus year NSUCO career, she accomplished a great deal, including receiving her master's degree in Conflict Resolution. Her first job with the college was as an administrative assistant, but as the college grew, so did her responsibilities and job scope. She oversaw staff, handled administrative operations, managed budgets and oversaw financial activities, served as the college's primary contact with all other departments and external agencies, handled all human resources activities, and much more. Outside the college, Karpel served as co-chair of the university's Employee Relations Committee and served on numerous search committees for Enrollment and Student Services as well as the STUEY Award Nominating Committee. In fact, in 2010, Karpel was a STUEY Award finalist in the Administrator of the Year category. In addition, she served as associate editor of *The Visionary* for many years. Despite her retirement, Karpel continues to serve as co-editor of the magazine, so she remains involved with the college and can be found working on the magazine somewhere in the Terry Building on most Thursdays.

**Fran Franconeri, B.A.**, who had been the college's admissions counselor, took the position of recruiter for the college and moved to NSUCO's administrative offices. Her reputation as a respected admissions counselor will serve her well in this new capacity. Franconeri will work closely with Dr. Michael Bacigalupi, assistant dean for student affairs. They will both recruit extensively across the country, searching for the most qualified candidates for the NSUCO programs. She has been with the university for more than five years and is a two-time STUEY Award finalist. She is beloved by the students, who actually created a Facebook page just for her.

**Nathaniel King, B.A.**, succeeds Barbara Karpel as director of administration. Before joining the college in August, he served the Broward, Collier, Lee, Glades, and Hendry counties as the area director for Kaplan test prep and admissions. As area director, King oversaw all budgetary, marketing, HR, and staff/faculty development to ultimately assist students to achieve their academic and career goals. Although King is new to NSUCO, he is not new to NSU. In the past several years, he has worked extensively with various HPD colleges, including the College of Osteopathic Medicine, the College of Pharmacy, and the College of Allied Health and Nursing to provide student preparation courses for their respective licensure exams.

In June, the dean's administration underwent several changes. **Josephine Shallo-Hoffmann, Ph.D., FAAO**, who is the director of the Masters in Clinical Research program and director of research, in addition to her duties as director of the Health Professions Division's Ph.D. core program, was officially appointed associate dean in June. She will retain several of her other administrative roles. Dr. Shallo-Hoffmann has been with the college for 12 years, during which time she taught first-year students in the Ocular Motility course.

**Stacey Coulter, O.D., FAAO**, another longtime NSUCO faculty member, began a sabbatical in June, at which time she stepped down from her role as chair of the Department of Optometric Sciences. Dr. Coulter, who joined the college in 1992, is a pediatric optometrist, and as such, the focus of her sabbatical research is on the connection between autism and vision. Dr. Coulter will return to the college at the completion of her sabbatical.

**Joseph Sowka, O.D., FAAO**, replaced Dr. Coulter as chair of the Department of Optometric Sciences. Dr. Sowka, who has been with the college since 1992 and developed an outstanding reputation as a national and international lecturer, is also the chief of advanced care at The Eye Care Institute.

**Heidi Wagner, O.D., M.P.H., FAAO**, decided to devote more time to her research activities and resigned from her role as chair of the Department of Clinics in June. Dr. Wagner, who joined the college in 1993, is succeeded as chair of the Department of Clinics by **Barry Frauens, O.D., FAAO**, an alumnus of the class of 1998. Dr. Frauens has been instrumental in the foundation and development of the college's alumni chapter and is concurrently serving as chief of primary care at the North Miami Beach Eye Care Institute site.



Gorman



Karpel



Franconeri



King



Shallo-Hoffmann



Coulter



Frauens



Wagner



Sowka





## Spotlight on New Faculty... NSUCO Welcomes Xiao Yu, O.D.

Dr. Yu, known as Shawn to his colleagues, grew up in California, where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology in 2006 from the University of California in Irvine. While he was working on his degree, Dr. Yu did research at the university's Department of Ophthalmology on color vision and homonymous hemianopsia patients. He subsequently attended the Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University, earning his Doctor of Optometry degree in 2010. As part of his optometry program, Dr. Yu

completed clinical externships in Schweinfurt, Germany, at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, the William Feinbloom Vision Rehabilitation Center, and a private practice in Huntington Beach, California. After graduating from optometry school, Dr. Yu completed a one-year residency program in low vision at SUNY College of Optometry and Lighthouse International in New York City.

Dr. Yu's area of interest is low vision, which he describes as essential reha-

bilitation for the eyes when there has been extensive damage from sight-threatening ocular diseases. Since these patients have lost vision beyond the ability of modern medicine to repair, and can no longer perform their simple daily activities, Dr. Yu and other low-vision experts provide tools and rehabilitation to restore function. According to Dr. Yu, "It is a very rewarding experience to see your patients being able to read a newspaper or restaurant menu, which they haven't been able to do in years."



# Dr. Andrea Janoff Proudly Follows in Her Father's Legendary Optometric Footsteps

By Scott Colton, B.A., APR, Co-Editor, The Visionary

Like the magnetic pull that makes the planets orbit around the sun, Andrea M. Janoff, O.D., FAAO, was seemingly predestined to follow in the renowned footsteps of her father, Lester E. Janoff, O.D., M.S. Ed, FAAO, who was an NSUCO professor emeritus when he passed away in 2006.

According to Dr. Janoff, who currently serves as assistant professor and chief of service and externship director in the college's Cornea and Contact Lens practice, she initially had no penchant for pursuing a career in optometry. "I was not interested in optometry when I was an undergrad at Pasadena City College in California," said Dr. Janoff, who was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. "I wanted to be a social worker."

However, a discussion with several practicing social workers soon dissuaded her from choosing the profession as a career choice. "After a year of college, prior to declaring my major, I decided to interview a few social workers and was turned off by how miserable they all seemed," she explained. "The consensus among those I talked to was that it was hard work emotionally, with little effect on peoples' lives—and low salaries to boot. I was always a hard worker, but I needed to see the fruits of my labor to maintain my motivation, so social work was out. What to do instead was now the question."

## Like Father, Like Daughter

After considering several options, Dr. Janoff decided to enroll in the dental hygienist program at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), with the intention of earning a B.S. degree and attaining a marketable skill. There was, however, one major detail in her plan that didn't sit at all well with her parents back home in Philadelphia—moving in with her boyfriend.

"When my parents heard that, they intervened with an offer to pay for my schooling if I returned home," she recalled. "I discussed my concerns with my father about not being able to find a job with a liberal arts degree. Fortunately, he recommended an optometric technician program that had just begun at a junior college in Philadelphia, and I will be forever grateful to him for guiding me in this direction."

Although she completed a year of optometric technician training at Harcum Junior College in Bryn Mawr, the experience left Dr. Janoff yearning for a more comprehensive educational curriculum. "Although I loved the program, I wished it had been affiliated with an optometry school so I could receive more hands-on training," she explained. "After researching similar programs, I found one at New England College of Optometry (NECO). I had always wanted to go to school in Boston, so off I went."

Interestingly, even though her instructors were urging her to continue on to optometry school, Dr. Janoff was torn between two forces—her father's daunting legacy and her fear of failure. "Could I be an accomplished optometrist like my father, who was very knowledgeable in all aspects of his profession and dedicated to the extreme—and could I face my fear of not living up to my or his expectations, even though he was my best cheerleader?"

After earning an Associate of Science degree in 1979 and obtaining her optometric technician's license, Dr. Janoff spent a year working in a group practice, where she learned about the various modes of practice and the personalities of the physicians who work in them. "This reality check really allowed me to see myself as an optometrist, so I decided to pursue that goal," said Dr. Janoff, who worked as chief technician during the day and completed her optometry prerequisites at night by attending Northeastern University in Boston.

In a move that surely brought unadulterated joy and pride to her father, Dr. Janoff was accepted into New England College of Optometry in 1982. "My father was immensely helpful during my first year, providing emotional support when I thought I couldn't handle the workload," she said. "He began working at NECO while I was in my second year, although I never had him as an instructor or preceptor."

Following her graduation from NECO in 1986, Dr. Janoff earned a certificate of residency in hospital-based optometry from the Brockton Veterans Administration Medical Center in Massachusetts. "I really wanted to increase my confidence in the area of ocular disease, so I opted to do an additional year of training," explained Dr. Janoff. "The program, which included precepting in the specialty contact lens service at Boston Eye Clinic, really helped me to hone my craft."

The next several years would prove to be prolific ones for Dr. Janoff, who spent a year working abroad in Israel as a clinical optometrist at the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem before returning to Boston to join a general optometric practice and then establish her own practice called Dr. A.M. Janoff and Associates in nearby Shrewsbury.

"...and could I face my fear of not living up to my or his (speaking about her father, Dr. Janoff) expectations, even though he was my best cheerleader?"

"I simply was open to change, seeking it when I felt the need."



### The Road To NSU

After working as an independent doctor of optometry for several years, Dr. Janoff began to feel as if she was stagnating professionally. "I needed more of a challenge," she admitted. "I began interviewing for different positions in the Boston area, but then I found out about the need for a contact lens faculty member at NSU's College of Optometry through my father, who had become an administrator at the college by this time. During my residency, I had enjoyed my role as clinical instructor for third- and fourth-year optometry students and O.D.s enrolled in a TPA certification program, and thought this would be a good fit for me. When I met my future academic colleagues during the interview, I felt certain I would be happy here."

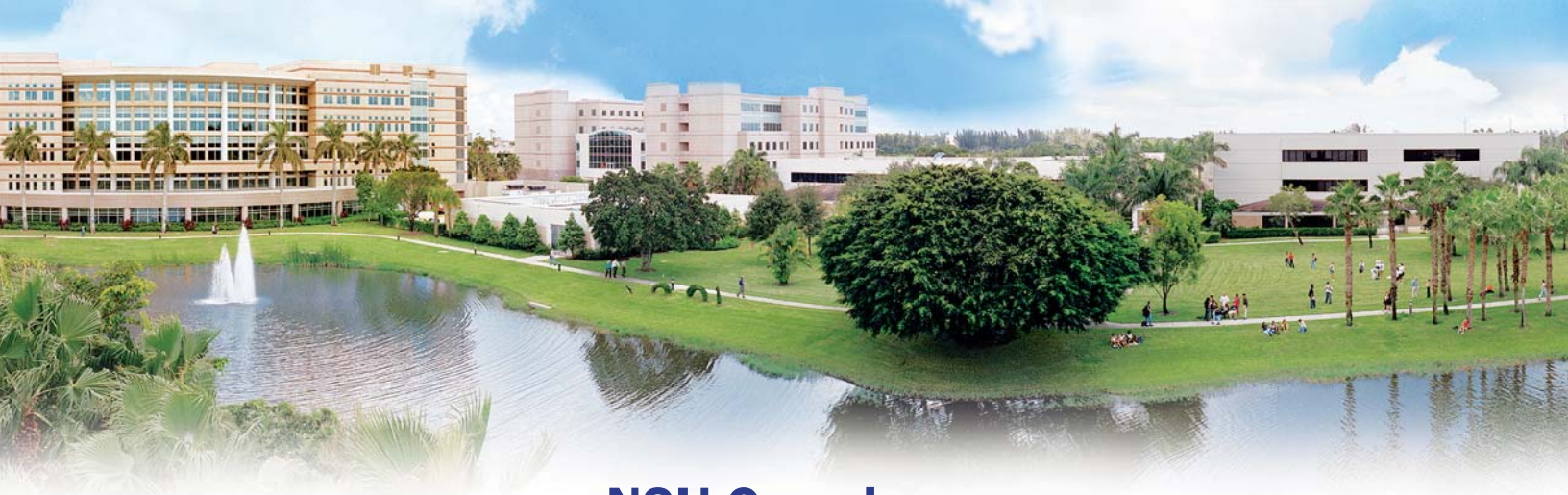
Since joining NSUCO in 1995, Dr. Janoff has excelled in many optometric areas, including research. She has participated in contact lens-related clinical research, most recently as principal investigator of a study on "Tear Protein Adhesion to Contact Lenses." In addition, in her role as co-investigator on the Collaborative Longitudinal Evaluation of Keratoconus (CLEK) Study, she coauthored an article in *Optometry and Vision Science* on "Rigid Contact Lens Fitting Relationships in Keratoconus." Additionally, she presented lectures on specialty contact lens fitting to optometry and ophthalmology students, residents, and physicians. She also provided continuing education at various venues, including a correspondence course published as the featured article in *Eye Care Review* entitled "Corneal Complications of Human T-Cell Lymphotropic Virus-

1 in the Differential Diagnosis of Keratoconus."

Unlike many of her colleagues, who carefully mapped out their career progression, Dr. Janoff freely admitted to having no such plan. "When I started practicing optometry, I had no particular strategy for my career course," she explained. "I simply was open to change, seeking it when I felt the need. When I reflect on where I started and where I am at now, I'm fascinated by how my current career interests and job closely parallel those of the two optometrists I most looked up to during optometry school—my father, the late Dr. Lester Janoff, an educator, administrator, and contact lens specialist, and my part-time employer, Dr. Donald Korb, a contact lens researcher and specialist who had a large following of Keratoconus patients. Although I felt so different from my mentors back then, I am amazed by our similarities now: My contact lens interest is fitting specialty lenses for Keratoconus, and I too am an educator, administrator, and contact lens specialist."

Thanks to the guidance, wisdom, and support of her father, Dr. Janoff was able to achieve similar success in the optometric field. More importantly, she was able to share with him her feelings about how much she loved and respected him. "Just before my father passed away, I had the opportunity to tell him how grateful I was for his support, mentorship, and friendship over the years," she stated. "I feel very lucky to have found a profession that I thoroughly enjoy while having such a remarkable role model whom I could call dad."





## NSU Overview: University Accomplishments Receive Recognition

Although *The Visionary* is a publication geared toward spotlighting news and achievements related to the College of Optometry, the magazine's editorial team has added an exciting component that highlights noteworthy news related to the global NSU community.

Since its humble beginnings in 1964, NSU has transformed itself into an esteemed major university that awards associate's, bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees in a wide range of fields including the health professions, law, business, marine sciences, psy-

chology, social sciences, computer and information sciences, and education. The university's myriad programs are administered through 15 academic centers that offer courses at the main campus and at field-based locations throughout Florida, across the nation, and at selected international sites in Europe, Mexico, the Pacific Rim, Central and South America, and the Caribbean.

Based on these impressive statistics, we hope you will enjoy reading a synopsis of what is happening beyond the College of Optometry at NSU.

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### **Treatment for Autism-Related Severe Behavioral Disorders Available at NSU**

Some of the most heartbreaking and life-changing news parents can hear is that their child has autism, that their child suffers from severe behavioral disorders, and that there are limited or no services available in the community to treat their child.

The need for more direct services, professional development, and research led to the creation of the Autism Institute at Nova Southeastern University earlier this year, and the implementation of a severe behavior disorders service (SBDS) to open this fall that will be the first short-term, intensive day-treatment program in South Florida. The SBDS will serve the community as a clinical laboratory and will be an integral site for training NSU doctoral students in clinical and school psychology to use the latest scientifically validated treatments for behavior disorders. It will also serve as a site for innovative clinical research.

Individuals with autism and related neuro-developmental disorders can often exhibit a wide variety of severely challenging behaviors such as physical aggression, self-injury, tantrums, and noncompliance because they process information in their brains differently than others. The SBDS program will provide cutting-edge behavioral health care in an onsite day treatment program dedicated to treating children who display severe behavior disorders that place them at risk for hospitalization and long-term residential placement.

Project director F. Charles "Bud" Mace, Ph.D., who also serves as professor of psychology at NSU's Center for Psychological Studies and Unicorn Children's Foundation endowed chair, has been awarded a

five-year multisite research grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to study factors that improve the long-term effectiveness of behavioral treatments for these disorders.

### **NSU Receives Seized Corals from U.S. Agencies**

NSU's Oceanographic Center recently received hundreds of seized coral skeletons, illegally poached in the Solomon Islands, from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Scientists from the Oceanographic Center's National Coral Reef Institute (NCRI) will be examining 22 pallets of confiscated corals for research, educational, and outreach purposes.

Last July, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents, working in cooperation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife law enforcement special agents, seized one shipping container worth of corals from the Solomon Islands in the Port of Tampa. An examination of the contents revealed the shipment violated both the Endangered Species Act, which protects federally listed endangered and threatened species, and the Lacey Act, which prohibits the trade of fish and wildlife that has been illegally taken, transported, or sold.

The shipments also violated the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora that ensures international trade in wild plant or animal specimens does not threaten their survival. As a result of these violations, 22 pallets of coral valued anywhere from \$500,000 to \$1 million were seized.

Richard E. Dodge, Ph.D., dean of the Oceanographic Center, said the stony coral skeleton specimens will be useful for research, education, and outreach. A selection will be put on display throughout NSU and





elsewhere to provide information on the economic importance, biological/ecological value of corals and coral reefs, and the many threats occurring to endangered coral reefs today.

### **Travisano Begins Role as Senior Vice President and COO**

Jacqueline A. Travisano, M.B.A., CPA, has been named NSU senior vice president and chief operating officer. In her new role, Travisano will be responsible for overall direction, management, and effective administrative operations of the university to support NSU's mission and help fulfill its vision. As such, NSU's offices of finance, human resources, enrollment and student services, internal audit, information technology, facilities management, public safety, business services, and university relations will report to her.

Prior to joining NSU, Travisano was the vice president for business affairs and chief financial officer at St. John's University in Queens, New York. Like NSU, St. John's is a private, not-for-profit university. Prior to St. John's, Travisano had previously served as vice president for finance and operations at Carlow University and associate vice president for finance and administration at Chatham University, both located in Pittsburgh.

### **Dr. George Hanbury Installed as NSU's Sixth President**

George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., was officially installed as NSU's sixth president on April 21 at an elaborate investiture ceremony held in the Don Taft University Center. "I am honored and humbled by the position and responsibility NSU's Board of Trustees has entrusted me to lead this great university," said Dr. Hanbury, who also became the university's executive operating officer effective July 1.

Dr. Hanbury has been the university's senior operating executive since joining NSU in 1998. He previously served as city manager and chief executive officer for the cities of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and Portsmouth and Virginia Beach, Virginia, and as an assistant city manager for the cities of Virginia Beach and Norfolk, Virginia.

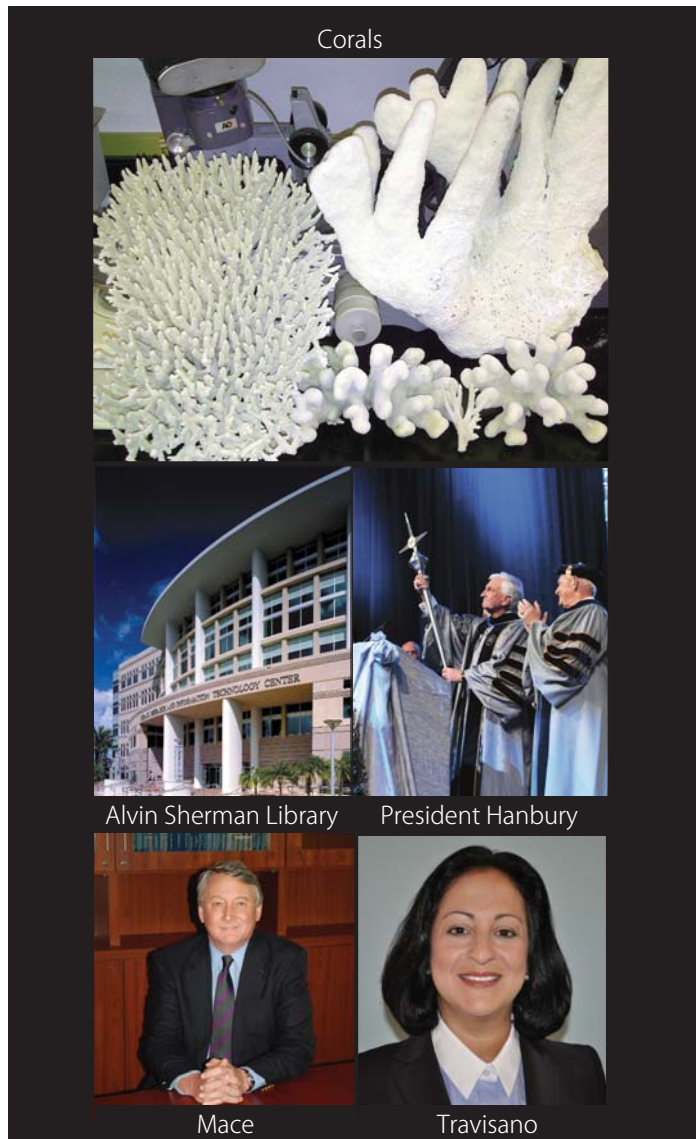
### **Alvin Sherman Library Turns 10**

Ten years may have passed since NSU's Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center opened its doors, but the facility's goal remains the same: to provide top-notch service to the university and the surrounding community. And for the past decade, the library's done just that through its high-caliber staff and collections of research materials, specialized databases, popular books, magazines and journals, CDs, DVDs, special programs, author readings, workshops, exhibits, and more.

When it opened on December 8, 2001, the spacious, high-tech library became one of the only in the nation to boast a joint-use agreement. This agreement between NSU and the Broward County Board of County

Commissioners allows the library to be open to the public, and create the perfect balance between a "bustling community hub" and a student-friendly "study central."

The library plans to use this anniversary to kick off a year of free activities that will begin with a special birthday party on Saturday, December 10 including a cake to be cut by special guest and library namesake Alvin Sherman and a unique performance by Fred Garbo's Inflatable Theater Company. For more information, please visit [www.nova.edu/library/main](http://www.nova.edu/library/main).



Alvin Sherman Library

President Hanbury



Mace



Travisano



# Florida Optometric Association

# Update

By Barry J. Frauens, O.D., FAAO, Associate Professor  
Chief of Primary Care Service, The Eye Care Institute at North Miami Beach

In July 2011, I was elected to the secretary/treasurer position of the Florida Optometric Association. As I enter into my fifth year as a board of trustees' member, I can say that it has truly been a privilege to serve the membership and the profession of optometry. The strength of any organization is determined by its membership and its leadership, and the FOA is no exception. We would like to thank Dr. Emilio Balias (Coral Gables) for his nine years of service on the board and welcome Dr. John McSoley (Hollywood) as our newest trustee. The current FOA Board of Trustees' members are

President: **Dr. Kenneth D. Boyle** of Melbourne Beach  
(1994 alumnus)

President Elect: **Dr. David W. Rouse** of Sunrise

Vice President: **Dr. Stephen R. Kepley** of Vero Beach

Secretary-Treasurer: **Dr. Barry J. Frauens** of Coral Spring  
(1996 alumnus)

Trustee: **Dr. Kenneth Lawson** of Bradenton

Trustee: **Dr. April Jasper** of West Palm Beach (1995 alumnus)

Trustee: **Dr. Tad Kosanovich** of Englewood

Trustee: **Dr. John McSoley** of Hollywood

Chairman of the Board: **Dr. Michael A. Fregger** of Fort Walton Beach

It is a special privilege for NSU to have one of its own alumni, Dr. Kenneth Boyle, as president of the Florida Optometric Association. The following is a message from Dr. Boyle:

*"As president of the Florida Optometric Association, I'd like to give you a summary of the direction in which I and your FOA board would like to see Florida optometry move. The methods we use to treat our patients are not dictated by science, but by 160 citizen legislators in Tallahassee. This is fundamentally wrong. We are doctors! I (and this board) feel that the methods we employ to treat our patients should be determined by science, training, and the Florida Board of Optometry. They have been appointed by the governor with the charge of safeguarding the citizens of Florida. We have the primary responsibility for the health of our patients' visual systems, but we will have to fight for each and every new treatment modality that science discovers.*

*I think it is time we start working on a mechanism that will allow us to use the proper tools for the job. We, the FOA, need to work toward giving the Florida Board of Optometry the responsibility of determining*

*our scope of practice. Enacting this type of change is not a short-term project. This type of change can only be achieved through diligent, committed, and consistent political activism. How can it be achieved? First, we must all work together. We need every optometrist to engage both in the FOA and in the political process. We need to be willing to subjugate our egos, get in sync, and all row together.*

*Second, we must understand this is a war. We will have tremendous resistance from our adversaries. The reality is we all must be prepared to fight for our professions every day for the rest of our lives. This is where all of you come in. We need the help of every optometrist in the state—FOA member or not—full-time or part-time, new practitioner or nearly retired, private practice, commercial tenant, or employed—no matter. If you are in the family of Florida optometry, do your part. First, if you are not an FOA member, become one. The FOA is the only advocate you have in Tallahassee. Second, join FLOPAC/FOCCE. Money is a necessity to be effective in enacting legislative change. Third, become involved in your local elections, either by being a key-person or simply assisting candidates with political races. Support candidates who understand our issues and have responded positively to our questionnaire. Contact your local society to see how you can help.*

*While scope of practice is a big issue to our association, access to our patients and equitable reimbursement are equally as important. I would like to make a point about scope of practice and access to patients through insurance plans. These issues are by no means mutually exclusive. In fact, enhancing our ability to treat our patients medically greatly improves our ability to convince third-party plans of the substantial cost savings to them (the insurer) for including us. Basically, we need scope of practice legislation to improve our standing with third-party plans, again to best serve the eye care needs of Floridians. I ask each and every one of the optometrists in this state to join me and this board in fighting to advance our profession to protect, heal, and preserve the visual systems of those we see every day in our practices."*

The leadership is dedicated to serving the membership. As I echo the words of Dr. Boyle, I encourage all who feel they have something to contribute to become involved. Your service will help better our profession for all of us, including our students and the patients we serve. We are excited to represent the membership and the profession of optometry in Florida.

# Research Highlights

## Research Grants

On May 24, a number of NSU-COM faculty members, in collaboration with other NSU faculty researchers, were awarded cash endowments in the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Chancellor's Faculty Research and Development Grant (CFRDG) program, which was created in 1999 to provide funding to faculty members in their efforts to secure additional resources for research activities. Each spring, awards of up to \$10,000 are provided to full-time faculty members based on the quality of their applications. The following project features NSUCO participation:

Debra Stern D.B.A., M.S.M., P.T.; Leah Nof, Ph.D., P.T., Kevin Nugent REMT-P, **Eva Duchnowski, O.D.** – \$10,000 award – American Heart Association 2011 CPR Retention: P.T., O.D. Students and Public Safety.

**Heidi Wagner, O.D., M.P.H., FAAO**, received an \$8,300 grant from Alcon to serve as principal investigator of the study entitled Contact Lens Assessment in Youth (CLAY) in College: Multi-Center Development of a Risk Assessment Survey for College-Aged Soft Contact Lens Wearers. The study involves fielding a survey instrument to five clinics across the country. She was also awarded a Health Professions Division research grant in the amount of \$5,000 as a member of the CLAY Study Group.

## Publications

**Amster D.** When stress strains vision. *Review of Optometry*: July 2011, 37-43.

**Duchnowski E, Janoff A.** Utilizing anterior segment optical coherence tomography to monitor acute corneal hydrops in keratoconus. *Optometry and Vision Science*: October 2011.

**Jiang BC.** Progress in myopia research" *Chinese Journal of Ophthalmology and Otorhinolaryngology*: 2011, 11:5-8. (in Chinese)

**Kabat AG.** Lenticular neovascularization subsequent to

traumatic cataract formation. *Optometry and Vision Science*: September 2011, 88 (in press).

**Kabat AG,** Granet D, Blaiss M, Tort M. Evaluation of olopatadine 0.2% in the complete prevention of ocular itching in the conjunctival allergen challenge model. *Clinical Optometry*: 2011 (3)1-6.

Lam DY, Kinoshita BT, Jansen ME, Mitchell GL, Chalmers RL, McMahon TT, Richdale KL, Sorbara L, **Wagner H.** as the CLAY Study Group. (2011) Contact Lens Assessment in Youth (CLAY): methods and baseline findings. *Optometry and Vision Science*: 88: 708-715.

**Perez MA, Shectman DL, Gurwood A.** The continuum of primary retinal telangiectasia. *Optometry* 2011: 82:158-165.

**Wagner H,** Chalmers R, Mitchell L, Jansen ME, Kinoshita BT, Lam DY, McMahon TT, Richdale K, Sorbara L as the CLAY Study Group. (2011) Risk factors for interruption to soft contact lens wear in youth. *Optometry and Vision Science*, 88: 973-980.

**Zhang B,** Tao X, Wensveen JS, Harwerth R, Smith EL, Chino Y. Effects of brief periods of unrestricted vision during early monocular form deprivation on development of visual area 2 (V2) *Investigative Ophthalmology and Vision Science*: August 17, 2011.

Baldwin MKL, Kaskan PM, **Zhang B,** Chino YM, Kaas JH. Cortical and subcortical connections of V1 and V2 in two-, four-, and eight-week old macaque monkeys. *Journal of Comparative Neurology*: July 28, 2011.

Tao X, **Zhang B,** Smith EL, Ohzawa I, Chino Y. Local sensitivity to stimulus orientation and spatial frequency within the receptive fields of neurons in visual area 2 (V2) of macaque monkeys. *Journal of Neurophysiology* (in press).

Van den Bergh G, Vreysen S, **Zhang B,** Chino YM, Arckens L. Temporal

dynamics of spatial frequency tuning in mouse visual cortex. (revision)

## Posters and Presentations

**Coulter RA.** Optometric Management of Patients Who Have Autism: How to Meet Their Visual Needs Without Letting the Autism Get in the Way. College of Optometrists in Vision Development, October 2011. Las Vegas, Nevada.

**Dehesa S.** Bilateral Duane's Retraction Syndrome: A Small RX Can Go a Long Way. American Optometric Association, Salt Lake City, Utah. June 2011.

**Dehesa S.** Ocular Manifestations and Treatment Considerations for the Patient with Cardio-Facial-Cutaneous Syndrome. American Optometric Association, Salt Lake City, Utah. June 2011.

**Jiang BC.** Visual Acuity and Contrast Sensitivity. 12<sup>th</sup> National Academic Congress of Visual Physiology, abstract p.25.

**Rodman J, Najman P, Mitchell E.** Juxtapapillary CNVM as a Result of Choroidal Rupture. American Optometric Association, Salt Lake City, Utah. June 2011.

**Hill J, Rodman J, Duchnowski E.** Triple Threat: A Combined Presentation of Endotheliitis, Trabeculitis, and Iridocyclitis. American Optometric Association, Salt Lake City, Utah. June 2011.

Smith R, Espejo A, **Tyler J.** Amaurosis Fugax Secondary to Carotid Artery Atherosclerosis. American Optometric Association, Salt Lake City, Utah. June 2011.

**Wagner H,** Chalmers RL, Mitchell GL, Jansen ME, Kinoshita BT, Lam DY, McMahon TT, Richdale K, Sorbara L. CLAY Study (2011) Gaps in the Contact Lens Case History: Identifying Items for a Soft Contact Lens Risk Questionnaire. ARVO E-abstract #6500, [www.aaopt.org](http://www.aaopt.org), accessed 3-29-11.



# **FACULTY MEMBERS RECOGNIZED FOR RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS AT NSU EXTERNAL FUNDING RECEPTION**

On September 21, a number of full-time College of Optometry faculty members were honored for their efforts to obtain external financial support at the NSU Office of Research and Technology Transfer's External Funding Recognition Reception, which was held at the Grande Oaks Golf Club in Davie. Frank DePiano, Ph.D., NSU provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, and Gary Margules, Sc.D., NSU vice president for research and technology transfer, hosted the event.

The External Funding Recognition Reception is an annual event that provides recognition for the efforts of NSU faculty and staff members who have received external grant funding in the previous fiscal year. The prior fiscal year produced great progress in the area of external funding, with total funding exceeding \$76 million.

Thanks to the efforts of the following individuals, ample amounts of external funding have been received to sustain, enhance, or create various programs and projects. Listed below are the six full-time College of Optometry faculty honorees and the organizations they received funding from for their projects:

**Melanie Crandall, O.D., M.B.A., FAAO**  
Vision Service Plan

**Alan Kabat, O.D., FAAO**  
TearLab, Inc.

**David Loshin, O.D., Ph.D., FAAO**  
Vistakon

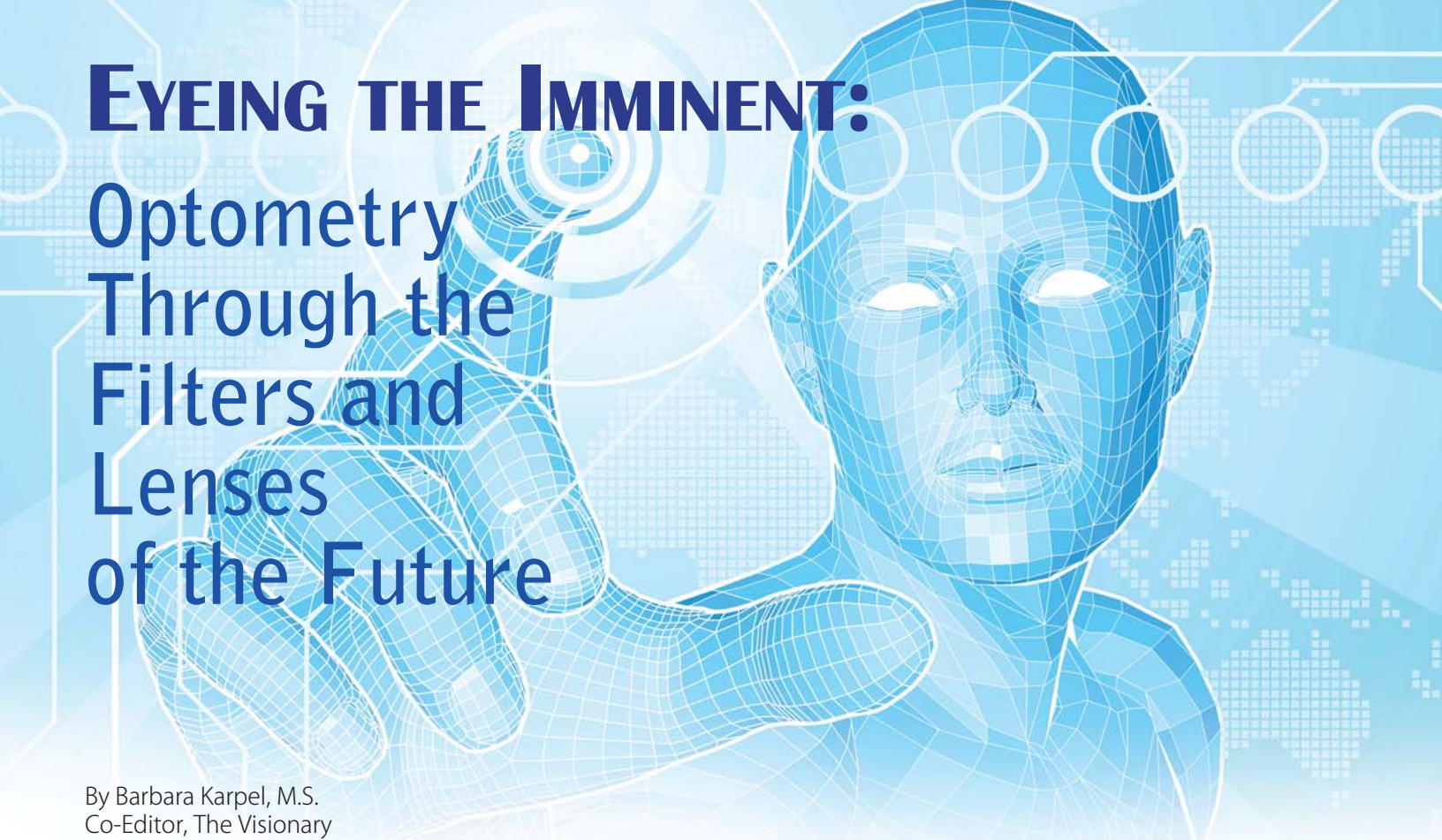
**Kenneth Seger, O.D., M.Sc., FAAO**  
Vision Service Plan

**Yin Tea, O.D., FAAO**  
Jaeb Center for Health Research

**Heidi Wagner, O.D., M.P.H., FAAO**  
CIBA Vision Corporation



Pictured with Dr. Frank DePiano in the two accompanying photos are honorees Dr. Melanie Crandall and Dr. David Loshin.



# EYEING THE IMMINENT: Optometry Through the Filters and Lenses of the Future

By Barbara Karpel, M.S.  
Co-Editor, The Visionary

The profession of optometry has its roots in optics and the study of image formation, dating back more than 2,000 years ago. Jumping ahead to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the first use of the word optometry, which derives from the Greek words *opsis* (view) and *metron* (measure), was likely first used in the 1890s to describe a profession that encompasses doctors trained and licensed to diagnose and treat diseases and disorders of the visual system.

As a group once referred to as dispensing or refracting opticians, practitioners soon began to identify themselves as optometrists, their practice having been greatly enhanced by the many technological advances of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Soon, practitioners banded together to establish a professional identity, simultaneously increasing the prestige of the profession.

Eventually, competency standards, educational requirements, and regulations were sought by lobbyists, and by 1925, every state and the District of Columbia had such legislation. The optometric profession continues to strive to serve the public in the best ways possible, works toward increasing the scope and tools of practice toward that end, researches new methods and technology, and produces literature that informs practice and education while always looking to improve the future and the profession.

For instance, one relatively recent initiative was the introduction of board certification, which is overseen by the American Board of Optometry (ABO). While this is still a very controversial subject, board certification may be yet another step forward. In fact, one practitioner commented that, "If all practitioners were to become board certified, we would all be better doctors."

As optometry progresses, it faces new challenges and concerns about the future of the profession. What might these challenges be? Dori Carlson, O.D., the current president of the American Optometric Association (AOA), was able to enlighten this writer on a number of them. Kenneth Boyle, O.D., president of the Florida Optometric Association (FOA), and April Jasper, O.D., an FOA trustee, provided additional insights into the profession's overall concerns and added some that are unique to practice in the state of Florida.

One challenge is dealing with potential demographic shifts in the coming years among the American population. As Dr. Boyle noted, demographics spur all practice issues. Therefore, it is imperative to know what these changes will look like. For example, will the baby boomers become an overwhelming percentage of the general population? Many have already become senior citizens; consequently, their health care issues may have become more serious and more prominent. How might optometry best respond to serving older patients who are likely to have more eye care needs than a younger population?

In addition to an aging general population, there are likely to be changes in the demographics of the nation's practitioners. How many optometrists currently in practice will be seniors themselves within the next 10 years? How many of them will continue to practice? If they do continue to practice, will they reduce their hours? Will recent graduates benefit if their predecessors begin to leave the profession for retirement life?

There are many demographics that are likely to have changed due to cultural shifts other than aging. For example, many more



women than ever before attend optometry school, and classes are often comprised of more than 50 percent women. When women enter the profession, their career and practice choices may be very different from earlier generations. Will practice modalities change because female optometrists may have different notions of practice? Certainly, many women will look toward a less-pressured existence than full-time entrepreneurial practice, and tending to family life may be just as important to them as career. Yet, there are many women who choose the full-time career path and practice modality. And are women the only group that may make the same choices?

Clearly, there is the generational difference between those who earned their degrees before the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the younger crop of students and graduates. For instance, most of today's students and recent graduates likely fall into the millennial generation. Born between 1980 and 1995, these young people have entered society and the workforce full blast. According to the CBS TV program *60 Minutes*, there are more than 80 million of them. In a segment produced in 2007, *60 Minutes* summed up the millennials this way: "They have the upper hand because they are tech-savvy, with every gadget imaginable almost becoming an extension of their bodies. They multi-task, talk, walk, listen and type, and text. And their priorities are simple—they come first."

Such generational differences, as observed by Dr. Jasper, will influence optometry the same as all other professions. She suggests that optometry must be prepared to communicate with the millennials in a way in which they understand and make certain we keep our practices moving forward into the new generation. Michael Bacigalupi, O.D., M.S., FAAO, the college's assistant dean for student affairs, said that learning more about the millennial generation has already caused NSUCO to alter its recruitment strategies. Once they become students, reaching and teaching the millennials also require a shift in educational methods, with the curriculum always advancing with the most recent technology available.

Given the attitudinal differences of this younger generation of optometrists and optometry students, could it be said they will be less likely to be committed to the profession? Will they work as hard as their predecessors? Are they less likely to own a practice and more likely to become employees? From an FOA standpoint, according to Dr. Boyle, employees are not as invested in the practice as the owner. How will that affect the patients they serve?

Certainly, if our recent graduates gravitate toward group practice, there are benefits to be derived for all, such as the synergy created when people work together, economies of scale, and increased purchasing power, according to Dr. Boyle. In addition, given the enormous average loan debt incurred by many stu-

dents, joining a larger practice provides an immediate income and money with which to repay those loans. On the other hand, recent graduates, both male and female, may demand positions that have 9:00 to 5:00 hours and less entrepreneurial activity. Putting in the effort to build and maintain a solid practice requires a time commitment. Another modality is partnership, of various forms. However, while partnering can create benefits similar to joining group practices, those who have chosen to form partnerships will face their own challenges because partnerships can be difficult to maintain.

Another challenge for the profession is how to create public awareness about optometry and optometric practice. As Dr. Carlson noted, optometrists are among a wide field of health care professionals that provide eye care. There may even be some confusion among the public as to whose care they should seek. Can and will the public be encouraged to see the optometrist as the go-to provider for eye care?

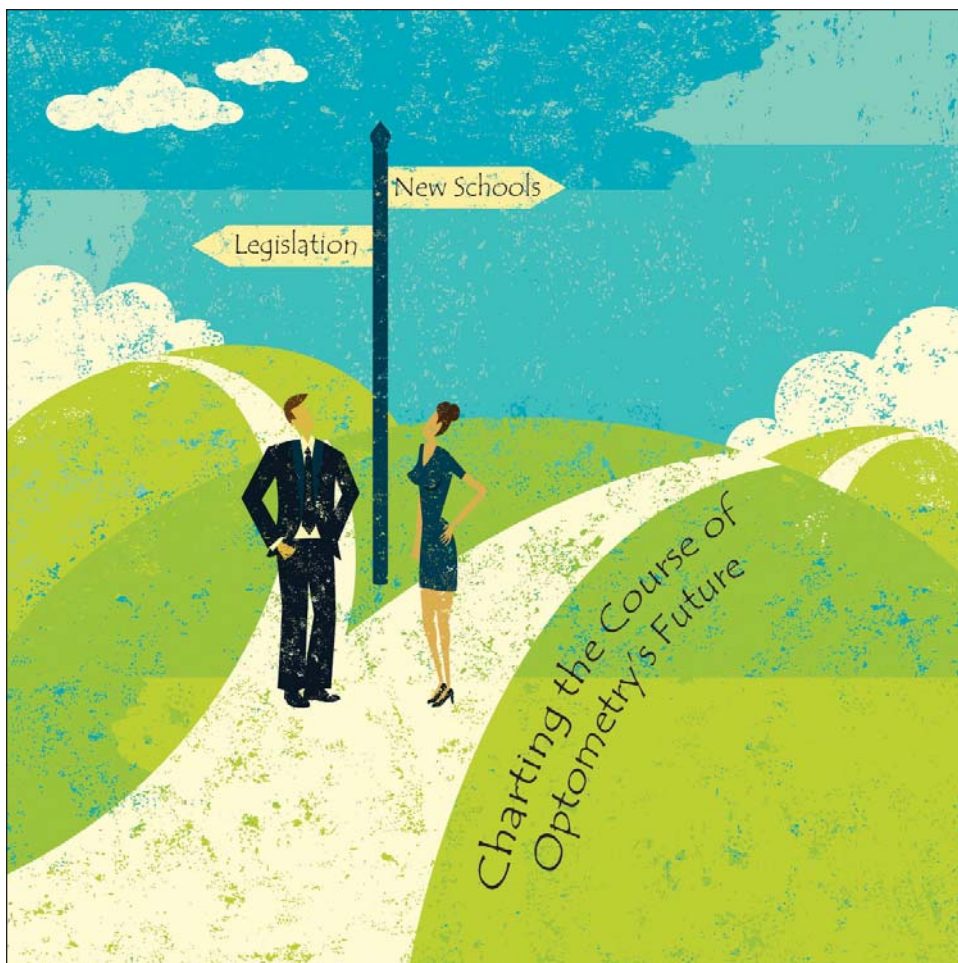
When asked if she envisions encroachment onto optometry by other medical practitioners, Dr. Jasper's response was to quote William James Mayo, M.D. (Mayo Clinic) from his speech to the graduating class of Rush Medical College in 1910: "As we men of medicine grow in learning, we more justly appreciate our dependence on each other. The sum total of medical knowledge is now so great and wide-spreading that it would be futile for any one man...to assume that he has even a working knowledge of any part of the whole. The best interest of the patient is the only interest to be considered and in order that the sick may have the benefit of advancing knowledge, union of forces is necessary... It has become necessary to develop medicine as a cooperative science the clinician, the specialist, and the laboratory workers uniting for the good of the patient, each assisting in elucidation of the problem at hand, and each dependent upon the other for support."

Many have done exactly that by joining ophthalmology practices where ophthalmologist and optometrist work side-by-side, integrating and dovetailing their knowledge and skills. These opportunities, however, may be shrinking. An article from *Ocular Surgery News (OSN)* in 2010 suggests there is expected to be a shortage of ophthalmologists as the population ages. The National Institute on Aging, as reported by OSN, claims that by 2030 one of every five Americans will be 65 years or older. This is a recurrent theme because the greying population affects all health care practice. How might a shortage of ophthalmologists play out for optometrists if there are fewer opportunities for joint practice?

Another looming area of concern for the optometric occupation—and all other medical professions—is health care reform. This story is yet to unfold, since at this writing the President's Health Care Reform Act is about to undergo scrutiny by the

"...many more women than ever before attend optometry school, and classes are often comprised of more than 50 percent women."

"Another looming area of concern for the optometric occupation—and all other medical professions—is health care reform."



Supreme Court, having acceded to "...a swift and final review of the law by the Supreme Court" on September 27, according to Michael Shear, a *New York Times* blogger. The court will consider whether it is constitutional to mandate that the public purchase health care insurance.

Still, no matter the result of this controversial case, one can expect some kind of reform to be implemented eventually. According to Dr. Jasper, "Optometry is being very vigilant to ensure that all Americans understand the value of health care provided by the optometrist." She also stated she is not sure the public understands the implications of the changes that may take place and indicates that this extends to electronic medical record-keeping, which is not yet required but is incentivized by the government. Dr. Boyle believes patients must have access to optometrists through third-party plans and insurances. Many insurance-plan benefits vary with the locality—even county to county—and some insurers look only at medical models when developing their fee schedules and allowable procedures. Will those insurers leave the optometrist out of the loop—and the patient without the optometrist?

And then there is the recent proliferation of new schools and colleges of optometry. Three new schools opened in the last five years (Western University of the Health Sciences, College of Op-

tometry in California; Midwestern University, Arizona College of Optometry; and University of the Incarnate Word, Rosenberg School of Optometry in Texas). In addition, the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (MCPHS) has begun the process of initiating an optometry school, and another is expected to open in Virginia. This would bring the number of U.S. optometry schools to 22. Not surprisingly, some wonder if this could be an example of overabundance.

In an article published by *Review of Optometry*, Peggy Aschenbach, O.D., who is providing leadership to MCPHS, answered the question by writing, "Why open yet another school of optometry—and one so close to New England College of Optometry? One reason is to serve the public health in underserved areas—an important mission of the school."

In Buchanan County, Virginia, there is a different kind of motive at work: Buchanan County has "developed a very unique economic development strategy that is centered, in part, around the development of private graduate schools in the county as a means of creating direct and indirect jobs and other economic impacts," said

Jonathan Belcher, executive director of the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority. Is this a purely profit-driven rationale? Either way, what really needs to be discovered is how many optometrists are too many? How will so many additional professional degree programs affect each other? The competition for quality students will certainly stiffen and schools will have to out-market each other for the best and brightest. In addition, with all the new graduates out there, how will individual practitioners and practices fare?

"Of unique interest and concern to Florida optometry is that legislation has yet to be passed allowing practicing optometrists to prescribe oral medications..."

Of unique interest and concern to Florida optometry is that legislation has yet to be passed allowing practicing optometrists to prescribe oral medications—and Florida is one of only 3 states in the country that lags behind the other 47 states in regard to this

issue. The Florida Optometric Association and its supporters throughout the state have attempted to get legislators to change their minds and pass appropriate legislation. The FOA will not cease its efforts until it attains success. Certainly, the FOA's position is that optometrists have been educated the same way as, for example, dental students since they have taken the same courses that are prerequisite in order to prescribe competently (and if not trained in school, many have taken therapeutics certification courses as continuing education). There seems to be no rationale on the part of legislators



to maintain the status quo, except perhaps political pressures brought to bear by other medical professions. The FOA considers this resistance to be bad medicine for optometry and optometry patients.

How will the optometric community deal with its challenges and concerns? Optometry will deal with them head on! According to Dr. Carlson, who is the first woman president of the AOA, the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) and the AOA have combined their energies and formed a joint task force, which was asked to examine the issues at hand and make recommendations as to how best approach them. One result of this effort is the AOA Workforce Study—a sweeping, comprehensive study being performed by a firm that has been engaged by the AOA.

Surveys will be used to gather a variety of demographic data that will provide the two organizations and the optometric community with useful tools for the future of optometry. It is expected the information gained will spur new initiatives, assist

organizations, societies, and practitioners to make relevant and forward-looking decisions, produce the most effective marketing campaigns, create public awareness, recruit more—and more qualified—students, manage through the morass of health care reform and insurance practices, and serve all communities and populations well. In so doing, optometry will continue to be the vibrant profession it is today.

“The optometric profession, given its bent on embracing technology for education and practice, interest in public health issues, and the motivation to grow as practitioners and educators, will surmount any challenges the future brings.”

After all, despite its current and projected challenges, optometry is still regarded as an attractive profession and excellent career choice. As reported in *U.S. News & World Report*, optometry is one of the 50 best careers for 2011. The report stated that this career should “have

strong growth over the next decade.” *Kiplinger.com* lists optometry among the 13 best careers for the next decade based on such criteria as likelihood of sustaining at least a middle-class income, being socially redeeming, quality of life, and status. The optometric profession, given its bent on embracing technology for education and practice, interest in public health issues, and the motivation to grow as practitioners and educators, will surmount any challenges the future brings.

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# OPTOMETRY: HISTORICAL TIMELINE

## 1896

Formation of the Optical Society of the State of New York. The society's purpose was to secure the legal recognition of optometry. This group ultimately gave birth to the AOA.

## 1898

The American Association of Opticians (AAO) was founded in New York. The name was changed in 1910 to the American Optical Association and again in 1919 to the American Optometric Association.

## 1900

Membership was limited to only optometrists. Prior to this, the association included refracting and dispensing opticians, manufacturers, supply houses, and importers of optical goods. Andrew J. Cross was the first optometrist president.

## 1901

The inaugural educational lectures were presented at the national convention in Chicago, Illinois. In addition, the board of regents was established to deal with all educational matters and preparation of exams to demonstrate proficiency.

## 1902

A reorganization plan was proposed to provide for a representative house of delegates and state associations affiliated with the parent organization.

## 1904

Officially adopted term *optometrist* and urged its general use by opticians who refract.

## 1908

The first code of ethics was adopted by American Association of Opticians.

## 1914

The association passed a resolution recommending vision examinations for operators of motor vehicles.

## 1918

The Bureau of Optometric Information was appointed to combat anti-optometric literature appearing throughout the country.

## 1919

Formal approval and incorporation in the state of Ohio under current name American Optometric Association.

## 1927

Save Your Vision Week first observed.

## 1929

*The Organizer*, the first official monthly journal, is published by the AOA. Title changed in 1930 to *Journal of the American Optometric Association* and in 2000 to *Optometry*.

## 1930

The first Council on Education (COE) was authorized by special resolution at Boston AOA Congress.

## 1934

The Council on Optometric Education, the accrediting agency for optometric educational programs, was established.

## 1935

A code of ethics was adopted by the AOA. A new code was adopted in 1944, with supplement in 1946.

The Professional Advancement Program (PAP) was launched. Marking a rebirth for optometry, the PAP promised steady professional advancement if every member of the AOA actively worked for its success.

## 1950

The Rules of Practice are adopted, causing internal dissension among members of the AOA. The rules are revised in 1968.

## 1951

Doctor of Optometry recognized as the proper and desirable professional degree.

## 1952

The first AOA headquarters was established in Anna, Illinois. The tiny office was built at the rear of AOA President James Wahl's optometric office.

## 1953

The AOA headquarters moved to St. Louis, Missouri.

## 1961

The inaugural Apollo Award, the AOA's highest honor and named after the Greek god of light, was presented.

AOA News was established.



**1963**

The AOA became an agency member of the American Public Health Association (APHA). In 1979, the Vision Care Section of the APHA was established.

**1964**

An official AOA logo was unveiled and promoted for use by the association, member optometrists, and affiliated state associations.

**1966**

The AOA filed a complaint with U.S. Department of Justice, alleging restraint of trade and conspiracy on the part of the American Medical Association (AMA), physicians, and several medical organizations. In 1966, the AMA rescinded its anti-optometry resolution of 1955.

**1967**

The Council on Clinical Optometric Care was formed. The initial projects included preparation of a manual of standards for clinical care and the development of accreditation procedures.

**1972**

The AOA celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**1974**

First paraoptometric program offered at the AOA Annual Congress in Washington, D.C.

**1975**

The AOA Political Action Committee (AOA-PAC) was established as a means to support political candidates who would best represent optometry's interests in Congress.

**1978**

The AOA headquarters was moved to its current location at 243 N. Lindbergh Blvd. in St. Louis, Missouri.

The Paraoptometric and Sports Vision sections were established.

**1981**

Contact Lens Section established. Name changed to Contact Lens and Cornea Section in 2000.

**1982**

Low Vision Section established. Name changed to Low Vision Rehabilitation Section in 2002 and to Vision Rehabilitation Section in 2009.

**1986**

The Optometric Oath was standardized and adopted by the American Optometric Association (AOA) and the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) as a means of encouraging professional and ethical behavior.

**1994**

The first AOA Optometric Clinical Practice Guidelines were published, providing O.D.s with evidence-based recommendations for patient care.

**1997**

The AOA's centennial-year anniversary was celebrated.

**2001**

The Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE)—a name change from former Council on Optometric Education—was instituted to clearly denote its role as the accrediting body for professional optometric degree, residency, and optometric technician programs in the United States and Canada.

**2002**

The AOA launched the Healthy Eyes, Healthy People program to work with the U.S. Department of Health on the U.S. Healthy People objectives under eye care. A memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Department of Health was formally adopted and continues to this day.

**2005**

InfantSEE® program established to provide vision assessments for children in the first year of life. Approved by the AOA in 2003, the program developed and was officially launched in 2005 with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter as spokesman.

Optometry's Fund for Disaster Relief was created in the wake of the destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina. Its mission is to provide immediate financial assistance to optometrists in need whose lives and practices are disrupted by a natural disaster.

**2006**

The AOA Foundation was established as a charitable arm of the association. Renamed Optometry Cares - The AOA Foundation in 2010, its mission is to expand eye health and vision care access to everyone in the United States in order to enhance human performance and quality of life.

**2008**

The AOA established the National Commission on Vision and Health, a nonpartisan group of public health leaders (O.D.s and non-O.D.s) whose mission is to improve the nation's visual health.

The AOA assumed administration of the National Optometry Hall of Fame, originally established by the Ohio Optometric Association in 1998 to recognize colleagues whose lifetime of significant achievements in optometry advanced the profession.

**2009**

The AOA voted in favor of establishing the American Board of Optometry as the entity to develop and implement the framework for optometric board certification and the maintenance of certification for optometry.

**2011**

The first female AOA president was elected. Dori M. Carlson, O.D., a graduate of Pacific University College of Optometry who was elected to the AOA Board of Trustees in 2004, was also the first female president of the North Dakota Optometric Association.

The AOA adopted the Standards of Professional Conduct. While the AOA Code of Ethics (2007) sets forth the basic tenets of ethical behavior for optometrists, the Standards of Professional Conduct amplifies the code of ethics and describes appropriate ethical and professional behaviors in greater detail. The two documents evidence a continuing commitment to professional and ethical behavior for all optometrists.

*(Excerpts taken from the official AOA timeline, which can be found at [aoa.org](http://aoa.org).)*



# GRADUATION

## Class of 2011 WE WILL MISS YOU!

By Michael Bacigalupi, O.D., M.S.  
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

On August 6, 2007, a group of talented young people embarked upon a long journey to become optometrists. When this group walked onto the Nova Southeastern University campus, the iPhone had just been introduced, the final *Harry Potter* book was published, *The Departed* won the Oscar for Best Picture, and the price of gasoline was \$3.38 per gallon. Understandably, to them, May 29, 2011, seemed so far into the future that it was hard to imagine, but time flies.

Today, these students are now our colleagues. They are professional optometrists who undertook a very rigorous curriculum, challenging clinic experiences, and a comprehensive series of board examinations to gain entrance into the profession of optometry. Let's all

welcome them to our family and congratulate them on their accomplishments.

These 96 (30 men/66 women) new optometrists out-competed 742 applicants in 2007 for their seats at NSUCO. Their accomplishments did not stop there. In 2010, this group passed Part 3 of the national board exam with a 98.9% passage rate. This accomplishment should make every Nova clinician proud.

There are 26 states represented in this special group of young optometrists and 9 from Canada. Their educational backgrounds show great diversity including B.S.B.A., B.S., B.Sc., and M.S. degrees in fields of study ranging from biology to public relations. Now, they all can add the O.D. designation after their names with pride.



# CANDID CAMERA







Thomas Gaudin

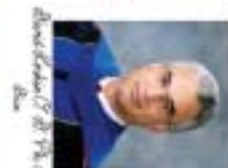


Michael Stephen, DVM, MS, DAB  
Assistant  
Dean

# NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

## HEALTH PROFESSIONS DIVISION

### COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY



Robert Anderson, DVM, MS, DAB  
Dean



Robert Anderson, DVM, MS, DAB



Class of 2011



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**CHERYL BAKER, O.D.**



**DEAN'S AWARD**

Presented for academic excellence to the student graduating with the highest scholastic achievement.

**SARAH BREHM, O.D.**



**CHANCELLOR'S AWARD**

Presented to the student who best exemplifies the characteristics of a fine optometric physician—a combination of scholarship, leadership, integrity, humanity, and loyalty to the profession.

**MICHELLE LEVIN, O.D.**



**FLORIDA OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION  
DR. LENNY CHERDACK  
STUDENT LEGISLATIVE AWARD**

Presented to the student who exhibits professional behavior consistent with the high ideals and moral ethics of organized optometry. This student has demonstrated outstanding dedication to the profession, the Florida Optometric Association, and the legislative process, including representing optometry at the Florida Capital.

**CHERYL BAKER, O.D.**



**BETA SIGMA KAPPA SILVER MEDAL**

Presented to the graduating chapter member who has attained the highest cumulative grade point average.

**KANDACE L. HAINES, O.D.**



**MARCHON PRACTICE  
MANAGEMENT AWARD**

Presented to a graduating student for excellence in clinical optometric practice management.

**JOHN MICHAEL CUMMINGS, O.D.**



**SOUTHERN COUNCIL OF  
OPTOMETRY AWARD FOR  
CLINICAL EXCELLENCE**

Presented to a graduating student who has demonstrated outstanding clinical performance.

**VINCENT SORGENTONI, O.D.**



**PIONEER INSTRUMENTS'  
PRIMARY CARE AWARD**

Presented to a graduating student for excellence in primary care performance.

**WALTER COZZI, O.D.**



**HUMANA SPECIALTY BENEFITS  
VISION CARE INC. PRIMARY CARE  
CLINICAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Presented to a graduating student  
who has demonstrated excellence  
in primary care.

**NAOMI AGUILERA, O.D.**



**MODULE DIRECTORS' AWARD**

Presented to that individual who has  
demonstrated clinical excellence in the  
area of primary care, including disease  
management and diagnosis, visual and  
refractive care, and patient interaction.

**EMILY NGO, O.D.**



**ARÁN EYE ASSOCIATES'  
EXCELLENCE IN  
OCULAR DISEASE AWARD**

Presented to a graduating student  
who has demonstrated exceptional  
understanding and care of patients  
with ocular disease.

**STEPHANIE CALI, O.D.**



**BRAVERMAN EYE CENTER  
CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD**

Presented to a graduating student  
who has demonstrated superior clinical  
skills and excellence in diagnosis  
and treatment of ocular disease.

**POONAM SEJPAL, O.D.**



**BRAVERMAN EYE CENTER  
EXTERN OF THE YEAR**

In recognition of a superior work  
ethic, clinical acumen, and  
excellence in patient care.

**ALISON JENEROU, O.D.**



**PEDIATRIC AND BINOCULAR VISION  
CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD**

Presented to a graduating student who  
has demonstrated outstanding clinical  
skills and patient care in Nova  
Southeastern University Pediatrics  
and Binocular Vision Service.

**VADIM GUY, O.D.**



**LUXOTTICA AWARD**

Presented to a graduating student  
who has demonstrated excellence  
in clinical pediatric care  
and vision therapy.



**VADIM GUY, O.D.**



**COOPER VISION'S EXCELLENCE IN CONTACT LENSES AWARD**

Presented to a graduating student for excellence in corneal and contact lens clinical care.

**SARAH BREHM, O.D.**



**WILLIAM FEINBLOOM LOW VISION AWARD**

Presented to a graduating student who has demonstrated outstanding clinical application of low vision treatment.

**SARAH BREHM, O.D.**



**HEINE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN OPTICS**

Presented to the graduating student who attained the highest academic average in all didactic courses relating to optics.

**SARAH BREHM, O.D.**



**MILROY OPTICAL SCHOLAR AWARD**

Presented to a graduating student for excellence in ophthalmic optics materials knowledge and dispensing.

**SARAH BREHM, O.D.**



**LOMBART INSTRUMENTS' OPTOMETRIC AWARD**

Presented to the individual with the highest overall grade in the optometric theory and methods courses.

**SARAH BREHM, O.D.**



**GP LENS INSTITUTE CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD**

Presented to the graduating student who has demonstrated eagerness to learn more about gas permeable lens design, materials, and fitting techniques.

**SARAH BREHM, O.D.**



**MIRAMED TECH ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Presented to a graduating student in recognition of outstanding academic performance and contributions to the eye care community.

**RYAN WINK, O.D.**



**WELCH-ALLYN AWARD  
OF EXCELLENCE**  
Presented to a graduating student  
for outstanding performance in  
all areas of optometry.

**VANESSA PARASRAM, O.D.**



**ALCON SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**  
Presented to a graduating student  
who has written the best case report  
that incorporates the use  
of an Alcon product.

**BRIAN PAUL, O.D.**



**VISTAKON AWARD  
OF EXCELLENCE**  
Presented to a graduating student  
who has demonstrated excellence  
in contact lens care.

**BRIAN PAUL, O.D.**



**THE LESTER E. JANOFF  
SCHOLARS AWARD**  
Presented to a fourth-year optometry  
student for outstanding performance  
in a scholarly activity such as teaching,  
research, or optometric journalism.  
In memory of Dr. Lester E. Janoff,  
a renowned educator, researcher, and  
pioneer in the area of cornea and contact  
lenses; a gentleman and a scholar who  
exemplified lifelong learning.

**BINDI DESAI, O.D.**



**COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS IN  
VISION DEVELOPMENT AWARD  
OF EXCELLENCE (COVD)**  
Presented to a graduating student  
who has demonstrated strong interest  
and clinical skills in the  
area of vision therapy.

**SAGAR AMIN, O.D.**



**ODYSSEY DRY EYE AWARD**  
Presented to two graduating students  
who have demonstrated strong interest  
and clinical skills in the area  
of dry-eye management.

**PRISCILLA SOTOMAYOR, O.D.**



**ODYSSEY DRY EYE AWARD**  
Presented to two graduating students  
who have demonstrated strong interest  
and clinical skills in the area  
of dry-eye management.



**LAUREN DAVIS, O.D.**



**X-CEL CONTACT LENS AWARD**  
Presented to a graduating student for  
excellence in fitting GP contact lenses.

**WALTER COZZI, O.D.**



**CONTACT LENS PRACTICE  
MANAGEMENT AWARD**  
Presented to a graduating student  
who demonstrated excellence in  
contact lens practice management  
as the house officer.

**ANNA SHAGAS, O.D.**



**DAVID J. KERKO LOW VISION  
AWARD (AKA CORNING)**  
Presented to a graduating student  
who has demonstrated interest and  
participation in the area of low vision.

**ROBERT REGO, O.D.**



**ESCHENBACH AWARD OF  
EXCELLENCE IN LOW VISION**  
Presented to a graduating student who  
has demonstrated outstanding clinical  
application of low vision treatment.

**RYAN SCHOTT, O.D.**



**ESSILOR CORNEAL REFLECTION  
PUPILOMETER AWARD**  
Presented to a graduating student  
who has demonstrated excellence in  
dispensing ophthalmic materials.

**RYAN SCHOTT, O.D.**



**VOLK OCULAR DISEASE  
EXCELLENCE AWARD**  
Presented to a student for excellence  
in ocular disease.

# Join Us in Creating the Next Generation of Visionaries

As a private institution, Nova Southeastern University's College Optometry depends on you—alumni, students, faculty/staff members, and friends—for support. Annual fund gifts allow NSUCO to provide extraordinary opportunities for learning and discovery to extend the financial aid program to students in need with scholarship support and to help us meet emerging needs and challenges. Any gift, no matter the size, will make a difference in educating the next generation of optometrists.

You can make an impact on a student's life by making your gift online at [www.nova.edu/giving](http://www.nova.edu/giving), by returning the enclosed envelope, or by calling (954) 262-2100.





# Monetary Contributions to NSUCO on the Rise: BECOME A VISIONARY

The College of Optometry recognizes the generosity of the following alumni and friends for their gifts to various college funds from March 1 through September 30, 2011:

## **Alcon Lab**

Optometry Continuing Education Donations

## **Bausch & Lomb**

Optometry Continuing Education Donations

## **Essilor Laboratories of America**

College of Optometry Discretionary

## **Dr. William Freitas**

College of Optometry Discretionary

## **Mr. Jon Jacobs**

Lester E. Janoff Scholars Fund

## **Luxottica Group**

College of Optometry Operating Account

## **Dr. Joseph Sowka**

Lester E. Janoff Scholars Fund

## **Medical Ophthalmics-MedOp**

College of Optometry Operating Account

## **Dr. Steven Gerber**

Dean's Excellence Endowment Fund

## **Dr. Michael Gitchel**

Dean's Excellence Endowment Fund

## **Dr. Terry Moehnke**

College of Optometry Discretionary

## *In Memoriam*

**BOBBY JACOBS ('93)**, who was a member of the NSUCO inaugural graduating class, passed away in August 2011 of a heart attack. Born and raised in South Florida, he was a restaurateur until he decided to pursue a career in optometry. Dr. Jacobs, who is survived by his wife, Gail, and their two sons, was in private practice in Pembroke Pines with his optician brother. His quick smile, gregarious personality, and irreverent sense of humor will be greatly missed. Dr. Jacobs' family requests that donations in his memory be made to the American Heart Association or to autism research.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**James Beranek, O.D. ('03)** currently owns Beranek Optometry in Hollywood, Florida. The practice offers comprehensive eye examinations, specialty contact lens fitting, and postoperative care for laser-vision correction. His clinical interests include dry eye and glaucoma management. Dr. Beranek is an active member of the American Optometric Association, the Florida Optometric Association, and the Broward County Optometric Society.

**Denise Burns-LeGros, O.D. ('05)** was named as the Florida Optometric Association's Young Optometrist of the Year.

**Tara Engstrom, O.D. ('11)** has joined Optical Solutions of Bluffton, South Carolina. She will provide primary eye care, including contact lens, pediatric, and ocular health exams.

**Barry Frauens, O.D., FFAO ('96)** was elected secretary/treasurer of the Florida Optometric Association Board of Trustees.

**April Jasper, O.D., FFAO ('95)**, who graduated from NSUCO with highest honors, completed a residency program in Boston, Massachusetts, during which she received specialized training in primary care, contact lenses, and ocular disease. She currently owns and operates Advanced Eye Care Specialists in West Palm Beach, Florida. Her practice is one of several in the area that provides corneal shaping therapy to curb myopia in children and adolescents.

**Brian Paul, O.D. ('11)** was honored with a \$1,000 American Optometric Foundation (AOF) 2011 Vistakon Award of Excellence in Contact Lens Patient Care. The award recognizes outstanding fourth-year student clinicians who have demonstrated excellent overall knowledge of the contact lens field plus skillful, considerate, and professional care of contact lens patients during their optometric education.

**Michael Rebarchik, O.D. ('10)**, a resident at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University, and **Steven J. Warne, O.D. ('10)**, a resident at the Bloomington School of Optometry at the University of Alabama, are recipients of the American Optometric Foundation (AOF) and Vistakon 2011 Dr. Sheldon Wechsler and George Mertz Contact Lens Residency Awards. Drs. Rebarchik and Warne each received \$4,000 toward their graduate education, which included a \$750 travel fellowship to attend the American Academy of Optometry annual meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, in October.

**Beth Seay, O.D. ('08)** is currently practicing at Eyedeology Vision Center and Optique in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Cristina (Davis) Sicoia, O.D. ('99)** and her husband, Daniel, welcomed their first baby, Andrei, into their family on April 6, 2011. Andrei weighed in at a healthy eight pounds, five ounces at birth.



# Alumni Chapter President's Message

By Jacqueline Rodena, O.D., Assistant Professor, President, College of Optometry Alumni Chapter

I am delighted to greet all our alumni as I begin my term as president of the NSU College of Optometry Alumni Chapter. In May, the class of 2011 graduates received their hard-earned degrees. The chapter would like to welcome the newest alumni, as well as congratulate the new doctors of optometry. In addition, we would like to congratulate the class of 2011 doctors who completed their residency program in July.

Our alumni are growing in number year by year, resulting in widespread representation of our school not only throughout the United States, but in other countries as well. One of the ways our alumni are making a strong impact in our communities is by providing mentorship to potential future students. New applicants to our program provide us with highly positive feedback about how their childhood Nova graduate optometrist influenced their career choice and how shadowing their local Nova graduate O.D. convinced them to apply to and attend our program. In addition, our strong and competitive residency program is attracting graduates from a variety of schools of optometry. The NSU College of Optometry program is reflected throughout our alumni, and I am happy to say the reflection is strongly **sharp** and **clear**.

This academic year, the chapter established the NSU College of Optometry Alumni Chapter Scholarship, which is awarded to a first-year optometry student demonstrating academic success, leadership, and community service. We would like to thank you for your contributions to this new scholarship and the college's other scholarships such as the Lester E. Janoff Scholar Award, the Terrence Ingraham Scholarship Award, and the General Scholarship Fund. We encourage you to continue to pay it forward with your contributions for the future.

Our biggest goal for the alumni chapter is to provide the opportunity to stay connected with the college and alumni, as well as offer networking opportunities. This year, we finally launched the NSUCO Alumni Chapter Facebook group and the NSUCO Facebook page. Please join and "like" our pages, which will provide information about upcoming alumni events and how our college is excelling presently and in the future.

On behalf of this year's College of Optometry Alumni Chapter officers Drs. Arnie Patrick, Eva Duchnowski, Erin Jenewein, and Sherrol Reynolds, we look forward to a great year.

## Education and Camaraderie Highlight Annual NSUCO Eye Care Conference and Alumni Reunion

On behalf of the NSU College of Optometry Alumni Chapter, I am pleased to report on our 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Clinical Eye Care Conference and Alumni Reunion weekend, which was held at NSU's

main campus in Davie and honored the class of 2001. On May 13-15, the college provided about 20 hours of continuing education courses on topics such as practice management, posterior segment, macular disease, ocular surface disease and allergies, low vision, and glaucoma. The best part of the weekend event was sensing that the nostalgia of 18 years has produced a fine group of optometrists, as well as lifelong friends.

Our yearly business lunch took place on Saturday, May 13, with alumni attendance exceeding previous years. Our 2010-11 alumni chapter president, Sherrol Reynolds, O.D., presented the past projects of the year such as the "Alumni in Training" event. This yearly event began in August 2010 during the White Coat Ceremony (a "cloaking" ceremony where the white coats are given and the incoming students recite the optometric oath). NSU's Alumni Association congratulated the new students and provided the celebratory dinner. Each student received a T-shirt with the slogan *Students Today....Alumni Forever!* along with alumni goodies. The other project discussed was the establishment of the NSU College of Optometry Alumni Chapter Scholarship, which is awarded to a first-year student who embodies traits like outstanding academic success, leadership, community service, and mentorship. In addition, we celebrated the 10-year reunion of the class of 2001—the ninth class to graduate from the college.

After a long day of stimulating their optometric minds with continuing education, the attendees made their way to the alumni banquet, which was held at the beautiful Grande Oaks Golf Club located across the street from the NSU campus. Heather Trappeagen, O.D., the class of 2001 representative, did a fantastic job of reconnecting with fellow classmates through Facebook and email to advertise the reunion. Banquet highlights included the awards presentation, where two members of the class were presented the "Alumnus Who Traveled the Furthest" and "Alumnus with the Most Class of 2001 Spirit" accolades, and the class of 2001 photo slideshow.

### THE OFFICERS VOTED TO SERVE FOR THE INCOMING YEAR ARE

**PRESIDENT: JACQUELINE RODENA, O.D. ('04)**

**VICE PRESIDENT: ARNIE PATRICK, O.D. ('93)**

**SECRETARY: EVA DUCHNOWSKI, O.D. ('08)**

**TREASURER: ERIN JENEWEIN, O.D. ('09)**

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: SHERROL REYNOLDS, O.D. ('96)**

We are currently in the process of planning the 10-year reunion event for the class of 2002, which will be held May 18-20, 2012, so please mark these important dates on your calendar.





# Eye Care Conference and Alumni Reunion Photo Highlights



## OD2 Mary Doan Receives Inaugural NSUCO Alumni Chapter Scholarship

By Sherrol A. Reynolds O.D., FAAO, Associate Professor, Alumni Chapter Immediate Past President

OD1 Mary Doan was the inaugural recipient of the College of Optometry Alumni Chapter Scholarship, which was established to support an incoming optometry student that has demonstrated academic success, a history of outstanding leadership experiences, and community service. It is a one-time award of \$1,000 that can be applied toward the student's optometric education-related costs.

Doan, who is from Wichita, Kansas, attended Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, and received a Bachelor of Arts and Science degree with a major in Biology in May 2011. In addition to her outstanding academic performance, she was involved in various community service projects for Ronald McDonald House, the Vietnamese Christian Life Community, and Habitat for Humanity, as well as planting flowers at nursing homes. She also helped collect food for the homeless and raised funds for cancer research by participating in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

Her leadership qualities were exemplified as a member of the Asian Student Association, being a senator on her Residence



Mary Doan receives her commemorative plaque from Drs. David Loshin and Sherrol Reynolds.

Hall student government, tutoring students at the Boys and Girls Club, and being a peer mentor to help students transition from high school to college. Her academic achievements include being a member of the Phi Sigma Biological Science Honor Society and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, as well as being on the Dean's List and a Dell Scholar.

The alumni chapter is committed to helping our college educate students at the highest level of proficiency, integrity, and profes-

sionalism. The Alumni Chapter Scholarship is an important addition to the College of Optometry Scholarship funds, but in order for the chapter to provide this scholarship on an annual basis, we need alumni support. We encourage each alumni member to donate to the College of Optometry Annual Funds at [www.nova.edu/giving](http://www.nova.edu/giving). In addition to the Lester E. Janoff Scholar Award fund or Terry Ingraham Scholarship Award, you may specify that the funds are for the Alumni Chapter Scholarship.

The alumni chapter would like to thank all our alumni for their past support and encourage future giving. Together, we can take the College of Optometry to new levels of excellence



### RESIDENTS' GRADUATION DINNER HONORS SUCCESS

By Barbara Karpel, M.S., Visionary Co-Editor,  
and Laura DeBruin, Coordinator for Department Chairs

Each year, the College of Optometry holds its Residents' Graduation Dinner to celebrate the successful completion of the residency program for our eight onsite residents. As we celebrate the outgoing class' accomplishments, we take this opportunity to induct the newest class of residents into the program. The college offers residencies in primary care with emphasis in ocular disease, cornea and contact lens, pediatrics and binocular vision, and geriatrics. In addition, there is a full residency position in pediatrics and binocular vision.

The NSU optometric residency program reinforces the education the residents had in their respective professional degree programs and further enhances their clinical, teaching, and research skills. Residents find themselves very busy since the program has a demanding schedule and residents may be assigned to any one of the college's four Eye Care Institute clinical sites.

This year's graduation dinner was held on July 12. Our graduating residents were Nicole Alessi, O.D., Rosalyn Coleman, O.D., Michael Derhodge, O.D., Jennifer Hill, O.D., Sheena Jessee, O.D., Pravina Patel, O.D., Adam Sweeney, O.D., and Wendy Wendel, O.D., who were recognized for their successful completion of the residency program. Outgoing residents often make their own presentations, and this year was no exception. The class of 2011 presented a video collage of their year that showcased the graduates at work and at play.

The next residency event is the Fourth Annual Residents' Day, which will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2012.



Pictured (from left) are Adam Sweeney, O.D., Wendy Wendel, O.D., Pravina Patel, O.D., Sheena Jessee, O.D., Jennifer Hill, O.D., Rosalyn Coleman, O.D., and Mike Derhodge, O.D.  
(Not pictured: Nicole Alessi, O.D.)

### Welcome New Residents



THIS EVENT WAS ALSO AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE NEW RESIDENTS TO MEET THE FACULTY MEMBERS AND ADMINISTRATORS. THE NEW RESIDENTS (FROM LEFT) ARE MICHELLE NADEAU, ASHLEY WONG, ANDREW BOLLES, CATHERINE DEREWYANKO, RIM MAHKLOUF, VADIM GUY, ROBERT REGO, AND KANDACE HAINES

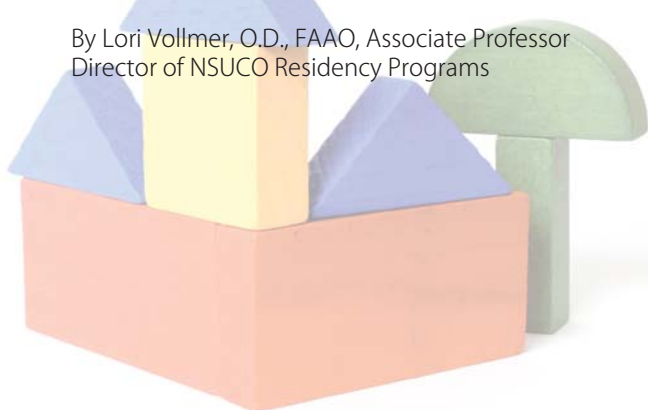




# Spotlight on NSUCO's Residency Programs

## Primary Care with Emphasis in Pediatrics and Binocular Vision

By Lori Vollmer, O.D., FAAO, Associate Professor  
Director of NSUCO Residency Programs



NSU's College of Optometry has eight outstanding residency positions with various areas of emphasis. I would like to highlight the incredible training our residents receive in pediatrics and binocular vision. Our residency program offers a choice for those interested in this area of optometry—a full pediatrics position as well as a primary care position with an emphasis in pediatrics and binocular vision. These positions provide advanced clinical training in a multidisciplinary environment facilitating a unique learning experience, as well as an opportunity to interact with other members of the health care delivery team.

Our unique Primary Care with Emphasis in Pediatrics and Binocular Vision Residency provides in-depth training in both primary care and pediatrics. The patient care experience involves multiple clinical sites highlighting our diverse patient demographic. Residents participate in the supervision of patient care by student clinicians and direct an after-hours patient care clinic. They are also involved in student instruction in optometric procedures, preparation of publishable papers and posters, delivery of grand rounds lectures, participation in journal reviews and case discussions, and have the opportunity to attend professional conferences.

Approximately 50 percent of the clinical and didactic training in this residency position involves a concentration in pediatrics and binocular vision. Residents with this area of emphasis participate in the supervision of patient care provided by student clinicians in the pediatrics services as well as at our Kids in Distress clinic. They also participate in the direct care of patients in the pediatrics, binocular vision, and vision therapy clinics as well as in pediatric/binocular vision laboratories and case conferences. In addition, they participate in advanced pediatric tutorials and observe at pediatric ophthalmology and specialty vision therapy practices.

Our current residents in primary care with emphasis in pediatrics and binocular vision are Andrew Bolles, O.D., and Ashley Wong, O.D.

**Dr. Wong:** *"The NSUCO primary care with emphasis in pediatric optometry residency program gives me ample patient care exposure with a gradual, progressive level of independence and responsibility. I value the flexibility of the program to cater to my interests, giving me the opportunity to practice optometry to the fullest of my needs. Above all, the strabismus specialty clinic attracts a challenging patient base that allows me to develop confidence in managing these cases on my own."*

**Dr. Bolles:** *"I chose the primary care with emphasis in pediatrics residency at Nova because the program allowed me to gain knowledge in the field I wished to specialize in while continuing to broaden my knowledge base in all aspects of optometry. I have really enjoyed the opportunity of working with multiple doctors to hear different perspectives on patient management. In addition to the patients I have seen, discussing cases with residents in different specialties has also been a great learning experience."*

Residents of this program graduate with advanced competency in the delivery of primary care, urgent care, pediatric care, binocular vision assessment, vision therapy, and perceptual evaluations. They also acquire significant experience in teaching, and many choose to remain in academia or work as clinical instructors. Overall, they are well prepared for any practice setting.

# FOCUSING ON PEDIATRICS

By Yin Tea, O.D., FAAO, Assistant Professor, Residency Program Coordinator for Pediatrics



The mission of the NSUCO Pediatric Optometry Residency is to provide optometric doctors with the highest level of clinical and didactic training in the area of pediatric optometry and binocular vision (POBV). The program allows doctors to become experts in providing eye care for infants, children, and people with special needs, as well as patients of all ages with binocular anomalies and/or visually related learning problems. Our POBV residents will be able to practice interdisciplinary care in the treatment of patients and have the necessary skills to serve as optometric educators to advance the profession in the areas of pediatric optometry and binocular vision.

The primary difference between the full POBV residency and the primary care with emphasis in pediatrics and binocular vision residency is the increased amount of time spent in pediatric and binocular vision-related rotations. The full POBV resident also receives didactic exposure to pediatric/BV material as he or she participates in three different pediatric optometry and binocular vision labs. The participating resident has a greater amount of direct care interaction in the clinics with pediatric and binocular vision patients, including a full year of direct vision therapy on his or her own schedule of patients. The resident also participates in programs such as the pediatric low vision initiative and Special Olympics.

The POBV resident is exposed to a variety of complicated and rare clinical conditions in our four clinic locations in addition to external rotations at private pediatric and binocular vision practices, as well as pediatric ophthalmology practices. The participating resident also has the opportunity to lecture in pediatric and binocular vision courses and labs that enhance his or her presentation skills in addition to further preparing the resident for an academic career should he or she choose that pathway.

Our current POBV resident is **Vadim Guy, O.D.** When asked why he chose the residency at NSU, he responded in the following way: *"The residency in pediatrics and binocular vision at Nova Southeastern University attracted me because of the diversity it has. Its diversity ranges in patient experience from primary optometric care of pediatrics to specialty areas, such as vision therapy, visual perceptual, strabismus, and amblyopia. I also appreciate the diversity in knowledge and spectrum of care of the supervising faculty members, as well as the didactic experience received from laboratory teaching, resident case conference, and resident tutorials."*

The spirit of the program is to expose our POBV resident to as many aspects of pediatric and binocular vision care as possible so the individual is fully prepared to practice in any mode of practice in any setting possible where opportunities arise. The program opens all doors for our POBV residents, and we have found that our past residents have all been confident and successful.



PEDIATRIC PATIENT WITH DR. BOLLES AND DR. GUY.



DR. WONG (LEFT) AND ANOTHER CLINICIAN GIVE PATIENT AN OPTIC EXERCISE.



DRS. BOLLES, WONG, AND GUY.



# Continuing Education Update



A number of attendees from the Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents Certification Course spent some of their leisure time visiting Fort Lauderdale Beach.

This year has been a productive and busy one for continuing education (CE) at the College of Optometry. In March, the college launched its 2011 CE series in New Orleans on the heels of Mardi Gras. The city was still in party mode when 60 doctors attended the event and festivities, with some coming from as far away as Minnesota, West Virginia, and Canada. As a result, time was allotted to enjoy the food, history, and culture of the city in addition to the 16 hours of CE credits offered. Drs. Kimberly Reed and Joseph Sowka were some of the keynote speakers who helped make the event so successful. In fact, the New Orleans sessions were so well received that the attendees requested an encore, which will occur in the spring of 2013.

In May, the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Eye Care Conference and Alumni Reunion recognized the class of 2001. Dr. Sherrol Reynolds and class president Heather Trapheagen worked long hours planning and encouraging alumni to attend. Throughout the weekend, over 120 alumni attended classes and/or the alumni

luncheon. Over 30 honorees and their guests attended the alumni reception and dinner that took place at the Grande Oaks Golf Club in Davie, Florida. The atmosphere and food were well received, but it was the camaraderie and the DJ that made the night such a success. The class of 2002 has much to look forward to next year.

In June, Dr. Reed directed the Florida Board Exam Review, which attracted over 65 attendees. The course was expanded to offer "Medical Errors," and additional course offerings are being considered for 2012. While record temperatures were heating the country, 56 doctors attended the July Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents Certification Course, which was held at NSU's Health Professions Division. Although it was 10 long days and featured 100 hours of lectures, the doctors were able to tailor the hours to their individual needs. Some doctors have already registered for future NSUCO continuing education courses, while others have promised to return.

# Calendar of Events

## **May 18-20, 2012**

Annual Eye Care Conference and Alumni Reunion  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

## **June 15-17, 2012**

Florida Board Exam  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

## **July 8-18, 2012**

Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents  
Certification/Board Review Course  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

## **August 19, 2012**

Super Sunday I  
Orlando, Florida

## **September 8-9, 2012**

Fall Conference  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

## **November 11, 2012**

Super Sunday II  
Orlando, Florida

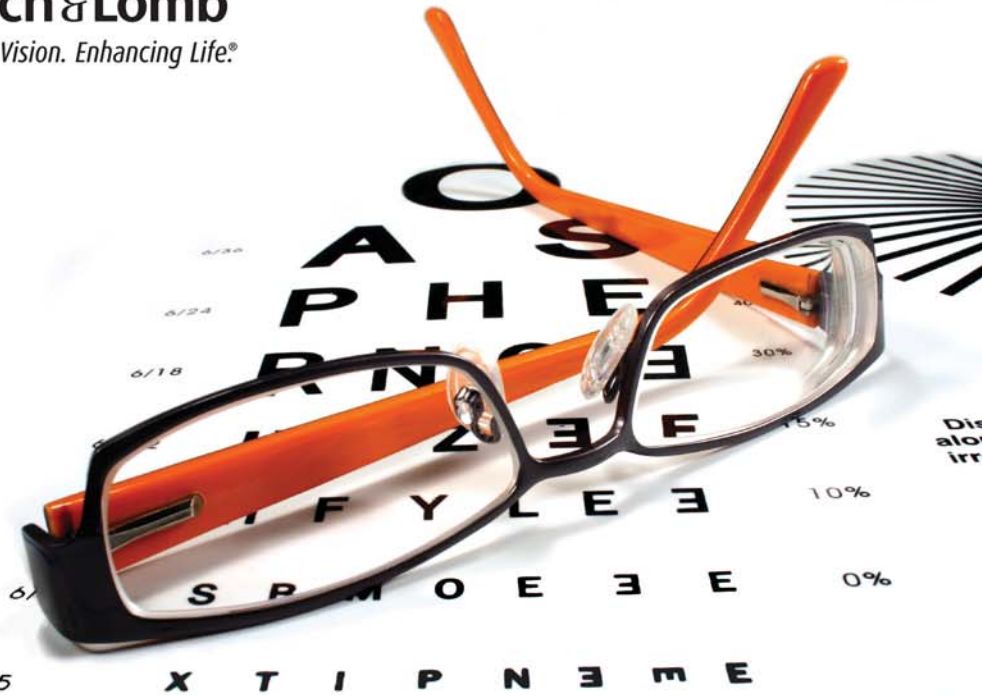




# Partners

*in Education*

We gratefully thank our Partners in Education for their continuing support of the college's students, faculty members, alumni, and continuing education programs.





## It's Time... to Send Us Your News!

*The Visionary* editorial team is in the process of compiling information for the *spring 2012* issue and invites you to submit professional news and photos. Please keep us apprised if you have

- purchased a practice
- been promoted or accepted a new professional position
- had a major article or book published
- been appointed to a local, state, or national committee or board of directors
- conducted noteworthy research
- received any special awards or recognition

Also, please be sure to update your contact information regularly so we can continue to send you *The Visionary* as well as other important college and alumni information. You may update your contact information at <https://www.nova.edu/webforms/alumni/>.

The deadline to submit information for the spring 2012 issue of *The Visionary* is Friday, March 9, 2012.

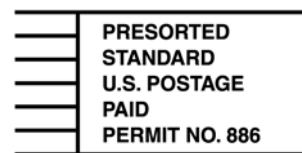
**Photo Requirements** – If you are submitting photos, they must be of high-resolution quality—preferably one megabyte (1 MB) or higher—and in their original (from the camera) photo file format such as .jpg or .tiff. Please do **NOT** embed photos in a Microsoft Word document or copy them from Facebook or other Web sites because these files are extremely condensed and are not usable for magazine reproduction.





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